

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

of the Patriarchs, the Prophets, and the Apostles



According to manuscripts and fragments
Geez • Coptic • French • German • Armenian • Irish • Russian • Slavonic • Hebrew
Visions and revelations of Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob
Moshe, David, Isaiah, Zephaniah, the Essene
Cephas Peter, John, Paul, Thomas

Full English Version

F i l b l u z
editions

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Illustrated by Tissot 1899



The marvellous birth of the Lord



BEFORE THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

L'avent du seigneur ~ La Légende dorée de Voragine [1230–1298], tome 1, Roze 1902
Historia scolastica ou La Bible historiée de Comestor [1100–1179], transl. (latin), Des moulins 1495
Les 15 signes précurseurs du jugement ~ Œuvres de st Jérôme



THE SIGNS BEFORE THE RESURRECTION¹

On the 1st day, the Sea will rise straight as a wall of forty (40) cubits above the highest mountains.

On the 2nd day, it will fall to the point of being almost invisible.

On the 3rd day, sea beasts will swim over the Sea and roar as high as the Sky, God only will understand their roar.

The 4th, the Sea and the water will burn.

The 5th, the trees and the herbs will be covered with a dew of blood. According to the belief of some authors, on this 5th day all the birds of the sky will gather in the fields, each species apart, without eating or drinking, but will daze at the arrival of the judge.

On the 6th day, the buildings will collapse. It is said that on this 6th day, lightning will go against the face of the firmament from sunset until its rising.

On the 7th day, the stones will clash and split in four. Each piece will be struck, the man will not be able to explain its sound, only God will understand it.

On the 8th day, a general earthquake, so violent that not a man, not an animal, can remain standing, but all will be thrown to the ground.

The 9th, the land will be levelled, the hills and all the mountains will be reduced to dust.

On the 10th, the men will come out of the caves and go like stunned, unable to talk to each other.

The 11th, the bones of the dead will rise and stand on their sepulchres, because all the tombs will open so that the dead can leave them, from the sunrise until its setting.

On the 12th day, the fall of the stars: all the fixed and wandering stars will spread fiery hair and change their substance, on this day all the animals will roar in the countryside, not eating or drinking.

On the 13th day, death of all the living, in order to resurrect with the others.

On the 14th day, Heaven and earth will burn.

On the 15th day, new Heavens and a new earth will be created and then the general resurrection.

ANTICHRIST

His efforts for prestige will be aimed at deceiving men in four ways: 1° By the trick used to misinterpret the Scriptures (intending to be a messiah). On these words of the Psalm^{9.21}. « Establish on

¹ From the time of the crucifixion of Jesus Messiah and of the 3rd Temple* to the Day of Judgement. *As he said: *I will raise it again in 3 days.* | « Jesus told the apostles that they would all meet twice in Jerusalem before going to preach the Gospel in distant pagan lands. Three (3) years after the crucifixion, all the apostles met in Jerusalem. Sixth (6) year after that event, the apostles were again assembled in Jerusalem. It was when they drew up the creed, made rules, relinquished all that they possessed, distributed it to the poor, and divided the Church into dioceses, after which they separated and went into far-off heathen countries. » *The Life of Jesus Christ and Biblical Revelation* (vol. 4), Anna C. Emmerich, Volume One of Four.

them a legislator, etc. », the commentary stated that this legislator is the antichrist. On these words of Daniel ^{11.31}. « They will put in the Temple the abomination of desolation », the commentary said: « The antichrist will sit in the Temple as a deity to abolish the law of God ». 2° He will deceive by his phenomenal works. The 2nd Epistle to the Thessalonians ^{2.9} reads: « He will come with the power of satan with all kinds of miracles, signs and deceitful wonders »; Revelation ^{13.13} says: « And he made signs to bring down fire from Heaven to the earth », the commentary adds: « As the holy Spirit was given to the apostles in the form of fire, they will give the evil though² in the form of fire ». 3° He will deceive by the abundance of his gifts, « He will give them much power » says Daniel ^{11.39} and he will share the land for free, the commentary adds: « The antichrist will fill with presents those he has deceived and he will share the land among the soldiers of his army ». In fact, those whom he could not submit by fear, he will subjugate them with avarice. 4° He will seduce by the tortures he inflicts. « He will wreak havoc and beyond belief » adds Daniel ^{8.24}. St Gregory says again of the antichrist:³ « He kills those who are strong when he conquers those who have not been defeated ».

VEHEMENCE OF FIRE IN PURGATORY AND SHEOL

The vehemence of fire will appear before the face of the sovereign judge. It will be God himself who will send this fire: – to renew the world, because he will purify and renew all the elements, and he will rise twenty-five (25) cubits above all the mountains like the waters of the flood; – to purify men, because it will take the place of purgatory to those who are still alive; – for the most frightful torture of the damned; – for the greatest brilliance of the saints. According to st Basil, after having purified the world, God will separate heat from light; he will send all this heat to be the greatest torment of the damned, and the light will go to the blessed to increase their joy.

CIRCUMSTANCES ACCOMPANYING THE JUDGMENT

The judge's discussion. The judge will come down into the valley of Jehoshaphat to judge the good and the wicked, he will put the right ones on the right and the bad ones on the left. Then the judge will argue with the wicked the works of mercy that they have not accomplished, it will make them a crime, all will then cry on their own, according to what st Chrysostom says about st Matthew: « The jews will weep for themselves at the sight of Jesus alive and vivifying, that they looked like a man having suffered death, and seeing his body with his wounds they will be convinced and will not be able to deny their crime. The heathen will weep also on themselves, deceived as they were by the many discussions of the philosophers who thought it was foolish and irrational to worship a crucified son of God. Sinful christians will weep for themselves for having loved the world better than God. The heretics will cry on their own for saying that Jesus was simply a man who had been crucified, when they will see in him the judge that the jews made suffer. All the tribes of the earth will weep for themselves, for there will be no more strength to resist him, no more faculty to flee from his presence, no more means of doing penance, no more time left to satisfaction. Everything will be in anguish, there will be room only for mourning.

² Lit. spirit

³ The antichrist is a character, an individual or group.

Different ranks. St Gregory thus expresses: « In judgment, there will be four ranks, two ranks of the reprobate, two of the elects. The ones judged and condemned are those who are said « I was hungry and you did not give me food ». The others not judged and condemned are those who are said: « He who has not believed has already been judged », since these do not listen to the words of the judge, who have not want to keep faith, even in one point. The others who judged and reign are the perfect ones who will judge others, not that they give the sentence which belongs only to the judge, it is said that they judge by assisting the Judge. It will be a matter of honor for the saints to sit with the sovereign judge as he promised (Matth.^{5.9}): « You will be placed on thrones to judge ». Then they will witness the sentence of the judge, they will approve it as are customary to do those who subscribe. In Psalm CXLIX^{149.9} it says: « They will write the minute of judgment ». Their assistance will be for the condemnation of the damned, it will be brought against them according to the testimony of the works of their life.

Severity of the judge. « Fear will not make him bend, for he is all-powerful ». St Chrysostom says that there will be no way to resist him, or to flee him, etc. « This day will come when pure hearts will have more value than skilful words, and a clear conscience will prevail over full purses. « The Judgment's day is awaited, and the judge, perfect in excellence, then will appear ». Being very good, he can not be carried away: – by hatred that has no hold on him: « You have not hated anything of what you have done », is it said in the book of Wisdom XI^{11.24}; – nor by love, for he is very just also will not deliver his brothers, that is to say the false Christians: « The brother will not redeem » (Psalm ^{49.7}); – nor by error, because he is very wise, his appearance is formidable, he knows all the secrets, penetrates into what is more compact, for him the darkness shines, the dumb answers, the silence speaks, the mind articulates without the help of the voice. On this subject, let us listen to st Jerome: « How many dumb people will be there, happier than those who speak easily, how many shepherds happier than the philosophers, how many peasants and fools will prevail over the skill of the speakers ».

THE THREE ACCUSERS

The devil. (St. Augustine) « Then the devil will hurry to repeat all the words that oppose us to our actions, at what place and what time we have sinned; this adversary will say to the very fair Judge: « judge that this one belongs to me because of his fault: he did not want to be yours by grace, he became mine by his misery; even if yours by his nature, he is mine by my persuasion; even if yours because of your passion, he disobeyed and was obedient to me only; even though he received the robe of immortality from you, he received from me these shreds that cover him, he stripped off your clothes and he came here with mine. judge that he is mine, and that he must be damned with me ». Oh how could he open his mouth in justice while he is found to be sent it with the devil ». These are the words of st Augustine.

The crime itself. Everyone will be accused by his own sins. It is written in the book of Wisdom IV^{4.20}. « They shall appear full of fear in remembrance of their trespasses, and their iniquities shall rise up against them to accuse them ». St Bernard adds: « Then their works will raise their voices together and say: It is you who made us, we are your works, we will not let go, but we will be constantly with you, and with you we will go to judgment ». And they will accuse you of infinity of various crimes.

The whole world. (St. Gregory): « If you ask me who will accuse you? I answer you, everyone, because the Creator is offended, the world is too ». St Anthony comments as st Matthew: « In that day there will be nothing for us to answer when the sky, the earth, the water, the sun, the moon, the days and nights, the universe in a word, will rise before God against us to bear witness of our faults. And even if the universe is silent, our thoughts and works will rise in the presence of God and accuse us without pity ».

INFALLIBLE WITNESSES

The sinner will have three against him. *God* will be the first to come over him, he will be judge and witness. « I am judge and witness, says the Lord » (Jeremiah XXIX^{29,23}). His conscience within him will be the second. (St. Augustine) « Do you fear the coming judge? Correct your conscience today, because what will defend your cause will be the testimony of your conscience ». His own guardian angel next to him will be the third witness of all that he has done, who will bear witness against him (Job XX^{20,27}) « The Heavens will reveal his iniquity ».

SINNER'S ACCUSATION

This is what st Gregory said: « Oh how small will be the ways of the sinner... Above, an irritated judge, beneath the horrible chaos, on the right the accusing sins, on the left an infinite number of demons leading to tortures, inside a crushed conscience, outside a bitter world; the wretched sinner thus surrounded, where will he flee? To hide will be impossible, to show him will be intolerable ».

IRREVOCABLE SENTENCE

He can never have an appeal or a cassation. There are three reasons against the criminal appeal: An eminent judge: in fact one does not appeal for a king who makes a sentence in his states, for he has no one above him in his kingdom, thus neither the emperor nor the pope is called. A proven crime: a notorious crime can not appeal. The urgency of danger: when there is danger in the house, it can not be suspended for execution. There are still three reasons for which no appeal is received, that the pope himself could not receive: – because of the excellence of the judge, who has no superior and prevails over all in eternity, in dignity, in power. One could in some way appeal to the emperor or the pope to God, but one can not appeal from God since there is no one above him; – because of the evidence of the crime, because there the abominations and the crimes of the reprobate will be notorious and manifest. « He will come in the day where we will see all our iniquities written as on a painting », says st Jerome; – because of the urgency, nothing that is done there is delayed, but everything flows in a moment, in the blink of an eye.



Fear Iehvah יְהוָה

*and keep his command, for
it is the whole duty of man.*

*For God will bring every
work into judgment, every
secret thing, whether it be
good or whether it be bad.*

— Solomon

Legend:

Words replaced:

Paradise for Garden (of Eden), *Gebenna* for Sheol, *priest(s)* for cohen cohanim

Words intentionnaly in lowercase:

christian, jew, cohen, hebrew, apostle, etc.

Word in italic:

complement.



ADAM.

The 5500 years

I am God the Creator *ani Iehvah bore* אַנְיִ יהוָה בָּורָא.

When I create my creatures, I do not intend to destroy them. I punished them with grievous plagues after they have sorely roused my anger until they repent; if despite everything they continue in their sin, they will forever be under a curse.

The hearts of Adam מְאֹד and Eve *Havah* הַוָּה were strengthened in God when heard these words. They now felt the Lord was like a father and a mother to them, and for this very reason, they wept before him and sought mercy. Then God had pity on them and said:

- Adam, I have made my covenant with you and I will not turn from it, neither will I let you return to the Garden until my covenant of the great five days and half is fulfilled.
- Lord God, when we dwelt in the Garden, our hearts were lifted up and we saw the angels sing praises in Heaven. But now we do not see as we were used to do, nay. When we entered the cave, all creation became hidden to us.
- You had a bright nature with you when you were under subjection, you could see things afar. Since you sin, your bright nature is withdrawn from you, it was not left to you to see thing afar, but only at hand, by the manner of the brutish flesh. Adam, all this misery done to oneself will not prevail against the rule, neither alters the covenant of the 5500 years.
- I wither in the heat, said Adam, I am faint from walking, and loath of this world. I know not when you will bring me out of it to rest.
- It cannot be at present, but until you have redeemed your days. I will then bring you out of this wretched land.
- While I was in the Garden, I knew neither heat, nor languor, neither moving about, nor trembling, nor fear. Now since I came into his land, all this affliction has come upon me. Lord, do not cut me off for this, neither

¹ *The Book of Adam and Eve*, transl. (geez) rev. Malan 1882. Book 1 chap.6, 21-25 | book 2 chap.8 | book 3 chap.5, 13-21

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smite me with heavy plagues, nor yet repay me according to my sin... For we, of our own will, did transgress your command and forsook your law, searching to become gods like you when the hater evil deceives us.

- Because you have borne fear and trembling in this land, languor and suffering, treading and walking in labour, going upon this mountain and dying: I will take all this on myself in order to save you.
- Will you have mercy on me so far as to take on you what I will do... said Adam weeping the more.

PLEADING FOR MERCY

Adam and Eve took stones and placed them in the shape of an altar. They took leaves from the trees out of the Garden, with which they wiped the blood spilled on the face of the rock and on the sand; and together with the dust, offered it upon the altar as an offering to God. They stood under the altar and wept, entreating God:

- Forgive us the trespass of our sin, and look at us with your eye of mercy...

When we were in the Garden, our praises and our hymns went up unceasingly before you; but since we came in this strange land, our praise was no longer pure, nor our prayer righteous, nor understanding of hearts, nor sweetness in thoughts, nor upright counsels, nor longing for discernment, neither straight feeling. Since our bright nature is gone, our body is distorted from the first Image it was when we were created. Yet now, look at our blood offered on these stones; accept it from our hands, like the praises we used to sing unto you at first in the Garden.

Then the merciful good God, lover of men, looked upon Adam and Eve, upon their blood which they had held up as an offering to him, without an order from him, he wondered at them and accepted their offerings. God sent from his presence a bright fire which consumed their offering. He smelt the sweet savour of their offering and showed them mercy. The word of God came to Adam and said:

- Adam, as you have shed your blood, so will I shed my blood when I will become flesh of your seed. Adam, as you did die, so I will die. As you did build an altar, so I will make an altar on the earth. As you did offer your blood upon it, so will I offer my blood upon an altar on the earth.

As you did plea for forgiveness by that blood, so will I make my blood forgiveness of sins, and blot out sin from it. Behold Adam, I have accepted your offering, but the days of the covenant to which I have bound you are not fulfilled. Once they are fulfilled, I will bring you back in the Garden.

Strengthen your heart, so when sorrow comes on you, make me an offering and I will be favourable to you.

God knew what Adam had in his thoughts, that he should often kill himself to make him an offering of his blood. Therefore, he said to him:

- Adam, do not kill yourself again as you did throw yourself from that mountain.
- It was in my mind to put an end to myself at once to be out of your beautiful Garden, for having transgressed your command, for the bright light that you deprived me, for the praises that flowed unceasingly from my mouth, for the light that covered me... By your goodness, do not get away from me altogether! Be favourable to me every time I die, and bring me to life!

Thereby it will be made known that you are a merciful God who wills not that we should perish, who loves not that one should fall, who does not condemn any one cruelly or badly and by whole destruction...

While Adam remained silent, the word of God came to him to bless him and comfort him: he covenanted with him that he would save him at the end of the days determined upon him.

TAKE MY BODY IN THE ARK

When our father Adam saw that his end was near, he called his son Seth, who came to him in the Cave of Treasures, and he said unto him:

- O Seth my son, bring me your children and your children's children, that I may shed my blessing on them before I die.

When Seth heard these words from his father Adam, he went from him, shed a flood of tears down his cheeks, and gathered together his children and his children's children, and brought them to his father Adam. But when our father Adam saw them around him, he wept at having to be separated from them. And when they sew him weeping, they all wept together, and fell upon his face saying:

- How shall you be separated from us, o our father? And how shall the earth receive you and hide you from our eyes?

Thus did they lament much, and in like words. Then our father Adam blessed them all, and said to Seth *Set נֶשֶׁ*, after he had blessed them:

- Seth my son, you know this world that it is full of sorrow and of weariness, and you know all that has come upon us, from our trials in it. I therefore now command you in these words: keep innocency; be pure and just, trusting in God; do not to lean to the discourses of evil nor its apparitions. Keep the commands that I give you this day, then give the same to your sons Enosh and let Enosh give it to his son Kenan, and Kenan to his son Mahalalel, so that this command abide firm among all your children.

O Seth my son, the moment I am dead, take my body and wind it up with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, and leave me here in this Cave of Treasures in which are all these tokens which God gave us from the Garden. O my son, hereafter shall a flood come and overwhelm all creatures, and leave out only eight souls. Let those among your children at that time take my body with them out of this cave, and that the oldest command his children to lay my body in a ship until the flood has been assuaged and they come out of the ship. After they have been saved from the waters of the flood, then they shall take my body and lay it in the middle of the earth, for thence God's son shall come and shall save all our kindred. Preserve this gold, this incense, and this myrrh that God has given us for a sign.

For in days that are coming, a flood will overwhelm the whole creation, but those who shall go into the ark shall take with them my body with the gold, the incense, and the myrrh, together, and will lay my body in the midst of the earth with the gold, the incense and the myrrh. Now I have revealed unto you hidden mysteries which God had revealed unto me, keep my command for yourself and for your people.

Now o Seth my son, place yourself at the head of your people, tend them and watch over them in the fear of God, and lead them in the good way. Command them to fast unto God, and make them understand not to hearken to evil lest it destroy them. Separate your children and your children's children from Cain's children. Do not let them ever mix with those, nor come near them either in their words or in their deeds.

Then Adam let his blessing descend upon Seth, upon his children, and all his children's children.

COHEN OF THE MOST-HIGH

The ancient old man Methuselah remained on the mountain with Noah's sons, lived nine hundred and eighty-seven (987) years. Because he must depart on account of his sickness, Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japhet came to him with their wives, and asked him to bless them.

- I will ask my Lord God to bless you, said Methuselah, to spread our kindred in a strange land to which you shall go. God will bring you inside an ark unto a land to which you have never been, and the Lord, God of all our pure fathers, be with you. May God bestow also on you the glorious gifts he bestowed on our father Adam from the Garden in this blessed Cave of Treasure: these are the three glorious gifts which God made to Adam:
 - first is the kingship whereby God made Adam king over his works;
 - second is the priesthood whereby God breathed into his face a Spirit of life;
 - third is the prophecy whereby Adam prophesied concerning what God thought.

I will ask my Lord God to bestow those three glorious gifts on your posterity.

Then Methuselah said also to Noah:

- O Noah, you are blessed of God. I warn you that I am going from you to all our fathers that have gone before me. You shall be left alone with your children on this holy mountain. Keep the command I give you, and forsake nothing of what I have told you. Lo, my God shall quickly bring a flood upon the earth. Embalm my body and lay it in the Cave of Treasures. Then take your wife with your sons and their wives to go down from this holy mountain. Take with you the body of our father Adam, and go into the ark and lay it there until the water of the flood are assuaged from off the face of the earth.

When about to die o my son, command your first-born son Shem, to take Melchizedec, son of Kenan, son of Arpacshad, for that Melchizedec is the cohen of the Most-High God כהן לאל עליון. Let them take the body of our father Adam from within the ark to move and lay it in the earth. Melchizedec shall stand ministering on that mountain in the middle of the earth, before the body of our father Adam for ever. For from that place, o Noah my son, God shall work salvation for Adam and for all his seed that believe in God. The angel of God will go with you until you come to that place in the middle of the earth.

Let him who ministers unto God and before the body of our father Adam, have clothing of skin, be girt about his loins with leather, with no ornament, but let his raiment be poor, let him be alone, and stand praying our Lord God to watch over the body of our father Adam, for it is a body of great value before God. Let him continue in his ministry, he the cohen of the Most-High God, for he is well pleasing unto God, and so is the ministry he fulfills before God.

SALVATION FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Noah lived three hundred and fifty (350) years after he came out of the ark. He called his first-born Shem and conversed with him saying:

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— O my son, hearken to what I command you. Hold good until I die and bury me, and when you have ended mourning for me, go into the ark in which we were saved from the flood, then bring out the body of our father Adam. Let no one know of it but one who is of your seed.

Make a beautiful case to lay it therein, and take with you some bread for provision with wine to drink on your way, for the land to which you shall go is rough and hungry.

Take Melchizedec, the youngest son of your son Kenan, for God has chosen him from all generations of men to stand before him, to worship and to minister to him, by the body of our father Adam.

Lay the body of Adam in the midst of the earth, and set Melchizedec to stand by it; show him how to fulfil his ministry before God. Keep my command and go, an angel of the Lord will go with you and show you the way, until you come to the place where you shall lay the body in the midst of the earth, for in that very place, God shall work salvation for the whole world.

I know that our children forsook this good command when they went down from the holy mountain to mingle with the children of Cain; they have perished with them in the waters of the flood. As my grandfather Methuselah gave me a great command which I kept; likewise I tell you to go and lay the body of our father Adam in the earth, to remain there until the day of salvation. Keep my words, receive my command and hide this mystery in your heart.

BAPTIZED BY HIS BLOOD

The ark was closed during the days of Noah. Neither was any one allowed to touch it. Yet they went to it to bless themselves in it and talked about it. As it was at first in the Cave of Treasures, Noah did not neglect his office regarding the lamp; every evening he went into it to light the lamp he made for our father Adam, and blessed himself in that body.²

Noah knew that the ark would not remain whole after him; that his children would part asunder and not return to look after the body of our father Adam; that wickedness would increase in the earth, and abomination among men. Therefore he commanded his son Shem to hasten to take the body of our father Adam, to move it to the middle of the earth according to God's order.

Noah divided the earth in three portions among his sons Shem, Ham and Japhet, as every one of them shall be settled in his own portion.

After they had ended mourning for Noah, an angel of God appeared to Kenan, the father of Melchizedec, and said to him in a vision:

- Do you know me?
- No my lord, Kenan answered.
- I am the angel whom God has sent to you to give you this command. Do not transgress the command of God.
- Speak my lord, said Kenan, wondered at hearing this from God's angel.
- I am the angel who brought gold to your father Adam when he was below the Garden.
I am the angel who entreated God together with him when he offered his own blood

² Due respect to the promise of the salvation to come.

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upon the altar. I am Michael the angel who received the soul of Abel the just. I am the angel who was with Seth when he was born in the cave.

I am the angel who was with Enosh, and Kenan, and Mahalalel, and Jared, and Enoch, and Methuselah, and Lamech, and Noah; but since he entered into rest, I stand by his first-born son Shem.

Behold, God has sent me to you to take your son Melchizedec, and to remove him to the land in which God shall lay the body of your father Adam, that he may be high exalted before God. Let not your heart grieve at his going away.

When Kenan heard these words from the angel, he worshipped in front of him, saying:

— The will of God be done! Lo, I and my son are in his hands. Let him do what he pleases.

This angel appeared to Kenan not on account of Kenan himself, but because Melchizedec מלכי-צדק was pure and righteous. Then the angel said to Kenan:

— Commit not this mystery to anyone but to Shem alone.

The angel departed from him and came that night to Melchizedec. He appeared to him in the figure of a youth like him and smote him *with a word* on the side to wake him out of his sleep. When Melchizedec heard it, he rose up and saw the house full of light; as a figure standing before him, he got scared this once only for he was not accustomed to see angels. The angel prevented fear from overcoming him, then he anointed him on the head and on the breast, and said to him:

- Do not fear, I am the angel of God who has sent me to you with this message to fulfil it for your God.
- What is that message? Melchizedec said to him, for he was a youth of a perfect heart.
- It is that you go with the body of your father Adam to the middle of the earth, and that you stand ministering before it there, and that you serve God. He has chosen you from your childhood for you are of the seed of the blessed.
- Who will bring the body of my father Adam with me it into the middle of the earth? Melchizedec said.
- Shem, the son of Noah, your father's grandfather, the angel said.

The angel strengthened and comforted his heart one whole hour.

- Commit not these hidden words to any but only to Shem, the angel said, lest the report of it spread abroad and they hang on to the body of Adam and not let it go to the land to which God has commanded.

Then the angel departed from him and went to Shem, the son of Noah. He said to him:

- Arise and take the body of Adam as your father Noah gave you command. Take with you Melchizedec to go with them to the place ordered by God, and tarry not.

When it was day, Shem made a beautiful case and hid it close to the ark. He then prepared bread and wine for provisions and came to Kenan to inquire for his son Melchizedec. Then Kenan began to tell him all that the angel had said to him, and he gave him up his son Melchizedec with a good heart. Shem said to Kenan:



— Keep this mystery secret, and reveal it to no one.

Shem took Melchizedec. They saddled an ass between them and went to the ark. They had no key wherewith to open the ark, Noah had fastened it with a padlock after he had come out of it. When they came to the ark, they bethought how to open it. Shem came to the door and said to Melchizedec:

— Come and open it, o you great God!

Hearing this, Melchizedec came to the door and seized the padlock, and at once the door opened. A voice cried from within the ark, saying:

— Rejoice o you cohen of the Most-High God,³ for you has been found meet to enter in the office of God's cohen, first created by him in the world.

This voice from the holy Spirit, Melchizedec knew that voice when it breathed into his face; he knew it also through the great grace that was in him. He marvelled and said to Shem:

— O my lord, I know by the breathing in my face that this voice is from the body of our father Adam, even if I saw no form, nor heard a voice speaking to me, for I saw no one.

Shem remained trembling, not knowing what to say to him. While they were wondering at the door of the ark, the word of God came and said:

— You are my righteous cohen. You are worthy to carry the body of Adam whom I created, into whom I breathed of my Spirit, for I made him a cohen, a king, and a prophet. Go in first and bring his body.

Melchizedec went into the ark. He bowed, in respect to the body of our father Adam, blessed himself in it, and brought it out. The angel Michael helped him the while to carry it. Shem also went in and brought out the gold, the incense, and the myrrh, and laid them together with the body of our father Adam, he placed the body in the case and shut it upon the body; then he shut the door of the ark as it was at first.

Shem and Melchizedec took the body of Adam and went on their way. The angel of God went with them and showed them where to go. So they went on that day until the evening and alighted at a certain place to rest. Then Shem and Melchizedec stood up to pray, and while they prayed there came a voice from inside the coffin of Adam that said:

— Glory to God who created me, who gave me life, who made me die, and who returns me back to the earth out of which he took me!

The voice blessed the youth Melchizedec and said to him:

— Of all our kindred, God chose no one but you. Neither did he anoint any one of them cohen with his own hand but you. Neither did he breathe into the face of any one his pure Spirit as he breathed it into you. I rejoice o my son, because you has been found worthy of such honour from God.

Once the voice withdrew from Melchizedec, he wondered at this voice came from a dead man, and it was done by the power of God. Shem kissed his face and rejoiced greatly on his account, seeing this wonder wrought on Melchizedec. As for Melchizedec, he tasted nothing that night because his heart was filled with joy, and he continued praising God and praying, standing before the coffin of Adam until morning. This vision happened to Melchizedec in the fifteenth (15) year of his age.

³ Genesis 14.18 - Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine; he was cohen of God Most-High.

Shem and Melchizedec put the coffin on the ass and went on their way. The angel of God went with them, and it was so that when they came to rough place, the angel moved them up by God's power, and made them pass over, whether they were lands or mountains. So they went on their way until the evening of the second day, they alighted to rest after their custom. Shem and Melchizedec stood up to pray. As they were praying, lo, a great light shone over them. Melchizedec did not know aught of fatigue by reason of the strength of God that was in him, but he rejoiced like one who is going to his wedding. They stood praying as they were wont before the coffin of our father Adam; then a voice came from the top of the coffin that said to Melchizedec and to Shem:

- Behold, we are drawing near to the place our Lord has decreed for us! Upon the land to which we are going, said the voice to Melchizedec, the word of God shall come down to suffer to be crucified on the place in which my body is laid. When the crown of my head shall be baptized by his blood, then my salvation shall be wrought. He shall restore me my kingdom, he shall give my priesthood, and my gift of prophecy.

Then the voice was silent by the power of God. Melchizedec and Shem marvelled at the voice that talked with them. Melchizedec remained the whole of that night praying joyfully until the day dawned. Then they put the body of Adam on the ass and went on their way. The angel of God went with them until they neared the place. Then Melchizedec went before them and stood before the ass, took down from her the coffin himself alone, not as on the two former occasions when he took it down. When the coffin reached the rock, the rock split asunder in two parts: that was the place for the coffin. Melchizedec and Shem knew thereby it was the place God had appointed. Then the angel went up from them into Heaven, while saying to God:

- Lo, the body of our father Adam has arrived; it is come to the place you did choose. I have done what you did command me.

The word of God came to the angel, saying:

- Go down to Melchizedec to strengthen his heart and command him to stay by the body of Adam. When Shem goes to rest, tell Melchizedec to take from Shem the bread and wine and preserve them.

The angel came down from God and appeared to Melchizedec and Shem in the figure of a man, he strengthened their hearts and laid the body of our father Adam in its place. And he said to Melchizedec:

- Take from Shem the bread and the wine.

Melchizedec took them as the angel told, and he and Shem stood praying by the body of our father Adam until evening; then a great light came down upon the body, and angels ascended and descended in that place⁴ upon the body of our father Adam, they were rejoicing and praising, saying:

- Glory be to you o God, who did create the worlds, and made *righteous* men of the dust of earth, and exalt them above heavenly beings.

The angels praised God over the body of our father Adam that whole night, until the dawn of day. As the sun rose, the word of God came to Melchizedec and said to him:

- Arise to take twelve of these stones, and make an altar to offer on it the bread and wine that were with Shem; offer them, you and he.

Hearing the word of God, Melchizedec worshipped between his hands, and hastened to do as God commanded.

⁴ Genesis 28.12 - Behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. He called the name of that place Bethel.

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

Adm
At the time he presented the offering on the altar, asking God to sanctify it, the holy Spirit came down upon the offering, and the mountain was filled with light. The angel said to him:

- This offering is accepted by God. Glory to him who created earthly men and revealed great mysteries!

The word of God appeared and said to Melchizedec:

- Behold, I have made you priest *cohen*, you shall present the offering as you and Shem did this first.⁵ I will raise twelve (12) messengers⁶ *malakim* מֶלֶךְיִם to be the solid pillars of the world as you did on a set of twelve (12) solid foundation stones.

I will make you an altar in the world as you did this altar.

I will do an offering of my body and blood to forgive sins, as you offered bread and wine. I will make a holy place of this place on which you stand and in which the body of Adam is laid; all creatures on earth shall be blessed in it, and in it I will grant forgiveness to all who come here.

The word of God blessed Melchizedec and appointed him cohen. And he went up in glory into Heaven, rejoicing with his angels. Melchizedec praised God, and he and Shem made an offering. Shem stayed that day with him to rest from the toil of the journey, and at sunrise it seemed good to Shem to depart. Melchizedec wished him God-speed⁷ and blessed him:

- The Lord God who led us to this place is with you to guide you until you come to your own place. If they inquire of you about me, do not direct them the way so that they do not come to me. When my father and my mother ask you about me, say to them: He has departed and I do not know the place of his pilgrimage. So their hope of me will be short cut and they will feel there is no use thinking of me, so they will not press you and make you come to me.

Shem departed and returned to his kindred, while Melchizedec remained standing before the body of our father Adam, to minister and worship God ever more; an angel abode with him to protect and bring him food, until the time of the patriarch Abraham. The raiment of Melchizedec was of skins, a girdle of leather around his loins, ministering unto God with much praying and fasting.



⁵ Numbers 3.3, 12.6 - Alike Moses and Aaron, Aaron was ministering unto God as a cohen and Moses as prophet.

⁶ Lit. apostles.

⁷ *Godspeed*: an expression of good wishes to a person starting a journey; *synonyms*: farewell, goodbye, good luck, God bless you.

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

The times: number and character

TIME OF DEVIATION: began with Adam after his estrangement from God until Moses.

TIME OF RENOVATION: began at Moses and lasted till Jesus birth.

TIME OF RECONCILIATION: where we have been reconciled by Christ.

TIME OF PILGRIMAGE: is the present life where we travel and we always fight.

Source: *La légende dorée de Voragine*, tome 1 (prologue), Roze 1902

Ab Adamo usque ad diluvium sunt	annī 2242
A diluvio vero, usque ad Turris aedificationem	annī 525
Ad Turris aedificationem, usque ad Abrahamum	annī 425
Ab Abrahamo, usque ad Exitum filiorum Israel ex Ægypto	annī 430
Ab Exitu, usque ad Solomonii Templi aedificationem	annī 757
Ab aedificatione Templi, usque ad captivitatem Israelitarum	annī 425
qui anni in unum summam collecti sunt = 4880	
A captivitate, usque ad Alexandrum Macedonem Regem	318
Ab Alexandro, usque ad Christum	303
Tota summa* =	5500

Source: *Suidae Lexicon Graece & latine*. tomus 1 (p. 48), Kusterus 1705

* error ± 75

Source: *Suidae Lexicon Graece & latine*. tomus 1 (p. 48), Kusterus 1705



ENOCH

*The 10 weeks*¹

There was a very wise man and a worker of great things whose God loved and received him so that he sees:
— the heavenly abodes;
— the kingdoms of the wise great inconceivable never-changing God, wonderful and glorious Lord of all;
— all the bright stations of the Lord's servants;
— the unapproachable throne of the Lord;
— the degrees of the incorporeal hosts and their manifestations.

That he should be an eye-witness of:

— the unspeakable ministries of the multitude of creatures;
— the varying appearances
— the indescribable singing of the host of cherubim;
— the immeasurable world.

At that time, he said:

— I Enoch **חֲנוֹךְ** had accomplished 165 years when I begat my son Methuselah **מְתוּשָׁלָה**, after that I lived 200 years and accomplished all the 365 years of my life. On the 1st day of the 1st month, I was alone in my house, I rested on my bed and slept. As I slept a great grief came on my heart, and I wept with mine eyes in my dream; I could not understand what this grief meant or what happened to me.

There two very tall men appeared to me, such as I have never seen on earth; their faces shone as the sun, their eyes were as burning lamps, fire came out from their lips; their dress had the appearance of feathers, their feet were purple, their wings were brighter than gold, their hands whiter than snow. They were standing at the head of my bed and called me by my name.

I awoke from my sleep and clearly saw these men standing by me. I hastened to make obeisance to them; I was terrified and my countenance was changed by fear. These men said to me:

¹ *The Book of the Secrets of Enoch* [2Enoch] transl. (russian, serbian, and other slavonic) prof. Morfill 1896, prof. Sokolov 1886. Chap.1-4

- Be of good cheer Enoch, be not afraid. The everlasting God has sent us to you. Lo, today you will ascend with us into Heaven. Tell your sons and your servants who work in your house to let no one seek you until the Lord brings you back to them.

I hastened to obey them. I went out of my house and called my sons Methusal, Regim and Gaidal to tell them what wonderful things the two men had said to me.

- Hear me, my children, for I do not know where I am going, or what awaits me. Now my children, I say to you: Turn not aside from God. Walk before the face of the Lord, keep his judgements, worship not vain strangers who did not make Heaven and earth, for these will perish and also those who worship them. Let God make confident your hearts in the fear of him. And now my children, let no one seek me till the Lord brings me back to you.

IN THAT DAY THE LORD OF SPIRITS SEATS HIM ON THE THRONE,

- Those who deny the Name of the dwelling of the holy ones of the Lord of spirits will not ascend into Heaven, nor come to the earth, but are preserved for days of suffering and trial. Such will be the lot of the sinners who deny the Name of the Lord of spirits.

On that day, my elect one will sit on the throne of glory and will choose their deeds; their mansions will be innumerable, they will see my elect ones and those who have called my glorious Name; I will cause my elect one to dwell among them and their souls will grow strong. On that day, I will transform and make the Heaven an eternal blessed light.

I will transform the earth into a blessing that will cause my elect ones to dwell there,³ while the sinners and wrongdoers will not set foot there.

I have seen to satisfy my righteous ones with peace and cause them to dwell before me, while for the sinners the judgment is imminent with me, that I may destroy them from the face of the earth.

I Enoch saw there someone with a head of days white like wool, and with him, another being, whose face has the form of man, full of grace as to one of the holy angels. I asked the angel going with me to show me all the hidden things about that son of man; who he is, whence he is, and why he goes with the head of days.

- This is the son of man who has righteousness, he answered me, with whom righteousness dwells, reveals all the hidden treasures. The Lord of spirits has chosen him because his lot has surpassed everything in uprightness forever before the Lord of spirits. This son of man you saw will make kings and mighty ones rise from their couch and the strong ones from their throne. He will loose the loins of the strong ones and grind the teeth of sinners to powder. He will cut down the kings from their kingdom and throne if they do not extol and praise he who bestows the kingdom to them nor acknowledge thankfully. He will make the countenance of the strong ones fall and cover with shame: darkness will be their dwelling and worms their bed; they will have no hope of rising from their beds because they do not praise the Name of the Lord of spirits.

² The Book of Enoch [1Enoch], transl. (geez) prof. Dillmann 1893. Chap.1, 47, 49-53, 61-64, 91-93

³ Isaiah 62.1 - I will not hold my peace for Zion's sake, I will not rest for Jerusalem's sake until her righteousness go out as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burns: the heathen will see your righteousness and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name which the mouth of Iehvah יהוה shall mark to be a crown of glory by Iehvah יהוה's hand, a royal diadem by your God's hand; no more shall you be called Forsaken נגנָה azoba, no more shall your land be called Desolate נַמָּת shemamah: you shall be called Hefzi-bah חַפְצָה My delight is in her and your land Beolah נַלְוָה married. For Iehvah יהוה delights in you and your land shall be married: your sons shall marry you as a young man marry a virgin, and your God shall rejoice over you as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride.

These are those who make themselves masters over the stars of Heaven,⁴ who raise their hands against the Most-High *el Elion* אֵל עֶלְיוֹן, and tread down the earth with their deeds of unrighteousness: all their deeds are unrighteousness, their power rests upon their richness, their faith is in gods *idols* they made with their hands and denied the Name of the Lord of spirits. They will be driven out of his congregations' houses and of the faithfull's who hold to the Name of the Lord of spirits.

In those days, the prayer of the righteous and the blood of the righteous will have ascended from the earth before the Lord of spirits.

In those days, the holy ones who dwell above in the Heavens will unite with one voice to supplicate, intercede, laud, give thanks, and bless the Name of the Lord of spirits on account of the prayer and the bloodshed of the righteous, that it may not be in vain before the Lord of spirits; the judgment may be done for them that they may not have to suffer forever.

In those days, I saw the head of days seated on the throne of his glory, and the books of the living opened before him, his whole host in Heaven above and around him, standing before him.

The hearts of the holy ones will be filled of joy when the number of the righteous ones will draw nigh, while the righteous' prayer was heard and the righteous' blood claimed before the Lord of spirits. In that place, I saw an endless fountain of righteousness surrounded by many fountains of wisdom; all the thirsty ones who drink from there are filled with wisdom. Their dwellings are with the righteous ones, the holy and elect ones.

At that hour, that son of man was named in the presence of the Lord of spirits: his name was in front of the head of days before the sun and signs were created, before the stars of Heaven were made. His name was named in front of the Lord of spirits for him to be a staff for the righteous to support themselves and not fall; he will be the light of the heathens and the hope of those whose heart is troubled.

All who dwell on earth will fall down to kneel before him, they will bless, praise and celebrate the Lord of spirits with song. For this reason, he was chosen and hidden before him, before the creation of the world and evermore. The wisdom of the Lord of spirits has revealed him to the holy and righteous ones, for he preserves the lot of the righteous who hated and despised the unrighteous world, who have hated its whole works and means in the Name of the Lord of spirits: they are saved in his Name and he is the avenger of their life.

In those days, the kings of the earth and the strong ones who possess the earth will have their face downcast because of the works of their hands: their souls will not be saved of their anguish in the days of affliction. I will give them over into the hands of mine elect. They will be burned in front of the holy ones as straw in fire, and be sinking in front of the righteous as lead in water, and no trace of them will be found anymore. Rest will be on earth in front of them in the days of affliction; they will fall and not rise again, there will be no one to take them with his hands to raise them, because they have denied the Lord of spirits and his anointed *messiah*. Blessed is the Name of the Lord of spirits!

Wisdom is poured like water, glory fails not before him forever and ever: he is mighty in all the secrets of righteousness. Unrighteousness will disappear as a shadow without persistence whilst the elect one stands before the Lord of spirits whose glory is forever and ever and his might to all generations. In him dwells the spirit of wisdom, which spirit of him gives knowledge, understanding, and might, in the soul of those who have fallen asleep in righteousness. When he will judge the secret things, no one will be able to utter a word of lie before

⁴ Stars of Heaven: multitudes.

him, for he is the elect one before the Lord of spirits according to his good pleasure.

In those days, a change will take place in the lot of the holy and elect ones: the light of days will abide on them, glory and honour will turn to the holy ones. Evils will gather over the sinners in the days of affliction, but the righteous will be victorious in the Name of the Lord of spirits.

He will cause others to witness that they repented and renounced the works of their hands; they will have no honour through the Name of the Lord of spirits, yet by his Name they will be saved and the Lord of spirits will have compassion on them, for he is righteous in his judgment and his compassion is great: in his glorious presence in his judgment, any unrighteousness will be maintained.

— Whoever does not repent before him will perish, and from now on he will show no mercy to them, said the Lord of spirits.

In those days, the earth also will give back those who are treasured in it, Sheol also will give back what it has received, Sheol will give back what it owes: from among them, he will choose the righteous and the holy ones for the day of their redemption has drawn nigh.

— In those days, when the elect one will sit on my throne, all the secret wisdom will stream from the counsels of his mouth.

For the Lord of spirits has given this to him to glorify him. In those days, the mountains will leap as rams, the hills will skip as lambs satiated with milk; and they will all become angels in Heaven. Their faces will be lighted up with joy because in those days the elect one has appeared, and the earth will rejoice with the righteous ones who will dwell on it, and the elect ones will go to and fro on it.

In that place whence I saw the visions of what is hidden while I was carried off in a whirlwind and borne towards west: there my eyes saw all the hidden things of Heaven that shall be: a mountain of iron, copper, silver, gold, soft metal, and of lead. I asked the angel who went with me:

— What things are these I have seen secret?
 — All these things you have seen serve the dominion of his anointed **נֶשֶׁמֶת** that he may be persuasive and mighty on earth, he said.
 — Wait a little, said that angel of peace. There everything hidden which the Lord of spirits has established will be revealed to you. Those mountains your eyes have seen, the mountain of iron, copper, silver, gold, soft metal, and of lead, all these will become as wax before the fire in the presence of the elect one. Those mountains will become powerless before his feet as the water streams from top to bottom.

In those days, it will happen that none shall be able to escape and none shall be saved, either by gold or silver. There will be no iron for war, nor chainmail for garment; bronze and tin will be useless, no value, and lead without demand: all these will be rejected and destroyed from the surface of the earth when the elect one will appear in the face of the Lord of spirits.

There, my eyes saw a valley with deep opened holes. All who dwell on the earth, in the Sea and islands, will bring him gifts and presents as tokens of homage, but that deep valley will not become filled because they commit crimes with their hands, sinners as they are, devouring criminally all acquisitions. They will perish in the face of the Lord of spirits and be removed continually and forever from the face of his earth, as I have seen the angels

of punishment ready to prepare all evil instruments accordingly for sinners. I asked the angel of peace who went with me:

- For whom are these instruments prepared?
- They are for the kings and mighty ones of the earth thereby they may be destroyed, he said. After this, the elect one and the righteous ones will cause the house of his congregation to appear, then they will no more be obstructed in the Name of the Lord of spirits. These mountains will not hold firm when the earth and hills will be as fountain of water before his righteousness. And the righteous ones will rest from the oppression of sinners.

In those days, I saw how the long ropes were given to those angels who took wings to themselves and flew to go towards north. I asked the angel:

- Why have these angels taken the ropes and gone?
- They have gone to measure, he said.
- Those, said the angel who went with me, bring to the righteous ones the ropes of the righteousness' lengths so that themselves keep on the Name of the Lord of spirits forever and ever. When the elect one will begin to dwell with the elect ones, those measures will give faith and strengthen righteousness. These measures reveal everything hidden in the depths of the earth: those who were destroyed by the desert, and those who were devoured by the fish of the Sea and by the beasts; so that they return to themselves on the day of the elect one. For no one is destroyed, nor can be destroyed, before the Lord of spirits.

All the powers who dwell above, in Heaven, received one command, one voice, and one light like fire. And they blessed that one above all, they extolled and lauded with wisdom, showing themselves wise in speech, in the spirit of life.

The Lord of spirits will place the elect one on the throne of glory to judge all the works of the holy ones in the Heaven, and to weigh their deeds in the balance. He will lift his face to judge their secret means in accordance with the word and Name of the Lord of spirits, and their path in accordance with the way of the righteous judgment of the Lord of spirits; then they will, all with one voice, speak and bless, glorify, extol, and laud the Name of the Lord of spirits. On that day, he will call all the holy ones above and all the host of the Heavens, the host of God, cherubim, seraphim, ophanim, and all the angels of power, all the angels of principalities, the elect ones, and the other powers on the earth, over the sea. They will bless and glorify in one voice with the spirit of faith, wisdom, patience, mercy, judgment, peace, and of goodness, saying with one voice:

- Blessed is he! Blessed is the Name of the Lord of spirits forever and ever!

All who do not sleep above in Heaven will bless him. All the holy ones in Heaven will bless him, with all the elect ones who dwell in the Garden of life, every spirit of light able to bless, glorify, extol, and sanctify your blessed Name, and all flesh will glorify and bless your Name beyond measure, forever and ever:

- Great is the mercy of the Lord of spirits for he is long-suffering! He has revealed all his work, all its extent, to the righteous and elect ones in the Name of the Lord of spirits.

So the Lord commanded to the kings, the mighty, the exalted *most esteemed*, who dwell on the earth, saying:

- Open your eyes, lift up your horns, if you are able to recognise the elect one.

The Lord of spirits seats him on the throne of his glory and pours over him the spirit of righteousness: the word of his mouth slays any sinner, any unrighteous is destroyed before his face.

In that day, all the kings, the mighty, the exalted ones, and those who hold the earth, will stand to see and they will recognise him whilst he sits on the throne of his glory; the judgement of justice is before him, no word of lie is told before him. Pain will come on them as a woman in travail for the child soon came out of the womb. One part of them will look to the other and be terrified; their face will fall at the sight of the son of man seated on the throne of his glory and pain will seize them.

The kings, the mighty ones, and all who possess the earth, will glorify, bless and praise him who was hidden, who rules over all. The son of man was hidden before the Most-High who had preserved him in the presence of his might, and had revealed him to the elect ones for the congregation of the holy and elect ones to be seeded. On that day, all the elect ones will stand before him.

All the kings, the mighty, the exalted ones, and those who rule the earth, will fall on their faces before him and worship. They will set their hope on that son of man to petition him, supplicating for mercy at his hands.

Nevertheless, the Lord of spirits will press them, so they will hastily come out of his presence, and darkness will pile up on their faces filled with shame. The angels of punishment will take them in charge to execute revenge on them for having oppressed his children and elect ones. They will be a demonstration for his righteous and elect ones who will rejoice since the wrath of the Lord of spirits remains on them and his sword drunk with their blood.

On that day, the righteous and elect ones will be saved and never see again the face of the sinners and unrighteous from then. The Lord of spirits and that son of man will dwell with them: they will lie down, they will rise up, and they will eat *partake* forever and ever. The righteous and elect ones who will be risen from the earth, will cease to be downcast face and will be clothed with raiment of glory before the Lord of spirits. Your cloth will be raiment of life that does not grow old, and your glory will not fade away before the Lord of spirits.

In those days, the kings and mighty ones who possessed the earth will implore his angels of punishment, to whom they are entrusted, to give them a little respite that they might fall down to worship the Lord of spirits and confess their sins to him. They will glorify and bless the Lord of spirits, saying:

- Blessed is the Lord of spirits, Lord of the kings, of the rulers, of the mighty ones! Lord of glory and of wisdom! Every secret is clear before you: your power is from age to age and your glory forever! Deep and innumerable are all your unrevealed things and your righteousness beyond reckoning. We have learnt now to glorify and bless the Lord of kings, him who is king over all kings.

And they will say:

- Could we have rest to glorify and thank him, to confess our faith before his glory, now that we crave for a little rest but find it not...

We are driven away and obtain it not. light is vanished before us and darkness is forever and ever our dwelling, for we have not believed in him, nor glorified the Name of the Lord of spirits, nor glorified as our Lord. Our hope was in our kingdom's sceptre and our *vain* glory. He does not save us of our suffering in the days of affliction, and we find no respite to confess our faith, that our Lord is true in all his works, in his judgments, and his righteousness. His judgments have no respect for personalities, and we shall fade away from

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before his face on account of our works, for all our sins, which are reckoned by justice and now say for us: Our souls were satiated with the unrighteous means that do not prevent us from going down in the pain of Sheol's flame.

After that, their face will be filled with darkness before that son of man: they will be banished from his presence, and the sword will dwell among them before his face, as spoke the Lord of spirits:

- This is the decree of judgment for kings, mighty exalted ones, and those who possessed the earth before the Lord of spirits.

I saw other forms in that place of secret and I heard the voice of the angel saying:

- These angels are those who descended to the earth, who revealed what was hidden to the children of men, and induced the children of men to commit sin.

APOCALYPSE OF WEEKS

Enoch the scribe wrote this complete doctrine of wisdom and judge of the whole earth, deserves the praise of all men and all my children who will dwell on the earth, and future generations who will observe justice and peace. Let not your spirit trouble on account of the times, for the holy great One has appointed days for all things. He who is righteous will arise from sleep, he will arise and walk in the path of righteousness, and all his path and conversation will be in eternal goodness and grace: he will be gracious to the righteous and will give him eternal uprightness, he will give him power, and he will live in righteous goodness and walk in eternal light. Sin will perish in darkness for ever, and no more be seen from that day for evermore.

After that Enoch began to recount from the books. And Enoch spoke:

- Concerning the children of righteousness, concerning the elect of the world and plant of uprightness - of these I will speak to you and announce to you, my sons, according to that which appeared to me in the heavenly vision, I Enoch know through the word of the holy angels, and have learnt from the heavenly tables.

And Enoch began to recount from the books and spoke:

- I was born the 7th in the first week, while judgment and righteousness still tarried.

After me, in the second week will arise great wickedness and treachery will spring up. In it there will be the first end, and in it a man *Noah* will be saved. After it is ended, unrighteousness will grow and he will make a law⁵ for sinners.

After that, in the third week, at its close, a man *Abraham* will be chosen as the plant of righteous judgment, and after him will come forevermore the plant of righteousness.

After that, in the fourth week, at its close, visions of the holy and righteous ones will be seen and a law for all future generations; an enclosure will be made for them.

After that, in the fifth week, at its close *1st Temple*, the house of glory and dominion will be built forever.

After that in the sixth week, all those who live in it will be blinded and the hearts of all of them will be given over to a wicked forgetfulness of wisdom, and in it a man will ascend; and at its close the house of

⁵ Laws of Noah, see *The Book of Jubilees* 6, Charles 1913.

dominion will be burnt with fire, and the whole race of the elect root will be dispersed.

After that in the seventh week, a generation will arise with many deeds and all its deeds will be apostate.⁶ At its close *2nd Temple*, the elect of righteousness *Jesus* of the plant of eternal righteousness will be elected to receive sevenfold instruction concerning his whole creation.

After that, there will be another week of righteousness, the eighth, to which a sword will be given that the judgment of justice may be executed on those who commit oppression. The sinners will be entrusted to the hands of the righteous ones *Apostles*; at its close *3rd Temple*,⁷ they will acquire *heavenly* houses through their righteousness and the house of the great king will be built in more glory forever.

After that, in the ninth week, the judgment of justice will be revealed to the whole world⁸ and all the works of godless vanished from the whole earth. Whilst the world will be written for destruction, all mankind will look to the path of uprightness.

After that, in the tenth week, in the 7th part, there will be the great eternal judgment in which he will execute vengeance amongst the angels. The first Heaven will depart and pass away, and a new Heaven will appear and all the powers of Heavens will shine sevenfold forever. After that there will be weeks without number forever in goodness and righteousness, and sin will no more be mentioned forever.

LAWS OF ENOCH,

— I tell you, my children, distribute the books to your children, in all your families among the nations: those who are wise, who fear God; let them receive them, let them read them and love them more than food; those who are senseless, who have no thought of the Lord, who do not fear God, will not receive them but turn and keep themselves away from them; the terrible judgement shall await them. Blessed is the man who bears their yoke, and puts it on, for he shall be set free in the great day of judgement.

I swear to you my children, but I will not swear by a single oath, neither by Heaven, nor by earth, nor by any other creature which God made, for God said: There is no swearing in me, nor injustice, but truth. If there is no truth in men, let them swear by a word, yea yea, or nay nay. Therefore I swear to you, yea yea, that there has not been even a man since his mother's womb to whom a place has not been prepared for every soul; and a measure is fixed how long a man shall be tried in this world. O my children, be not deceived, there is a place prepared for every soul of man. I have laid down in the writings the actions of every man, and no one born on the earth can hide himself, nor can his deeds be concealed, I see all.

Now therefore my children, accomplish the number of your days with patience and meekness, and you shall inherit the endless life which is to come. Every wound, every affliction, every bad word and attack, endure for the sake of the Lord.¹⁰ And do not repay when you might have vengeance, either on your neighbour or your enemy, for God will repay as your avenger in the great day of judgement. Let it not be for you to take vengeance.

Whoever of you spends gold or silver, for the sake of a brother, shall receive abundant treasure in the day of judgement; likewise if you give a hand to the orphan, the widow, and the stranger. Give a hand to the poor

⁶ Apostate: abandoning a religious or principle or political belief.

⁷ 3rd Temple of the Holy Spirit: see *The Sefer of Jesus* 82 and *Isaiah* 43.15.

⁸ I.e. the land of Israel.

⁹ *The Book of the Secrets of Enoch* [2Enoch, Enoch Slavonic], transl. (from russian, serbian, and other slavonic languages), prof. Morfill 1896, prof. Sokolov 1886. Chap.48-68

¹⁰ *The Sefer of Jesus* 16 - Truly blessed are they who mourn this earthly life for they shall be comforted. Truly blessed are the poors who hate the world delights for they shall abound in the delights of God Kingdom. Truly blessed are they who eat at the table of God for the messengers shall minister unto them. Journey as pilgrims.

according to your powers. Do not hide your silver in the ground: assist the honest man in his affliction, and affliction shall not come upon you, in the time of your labour.

Whatever violent and grievous yoke put upon you, endure all for the Lord's sake, and so you will receive your reward in the day of judgement.

Morning, afternoon and evening, it is good to go into the house of the Lord to glorify the Creator of all. Let every thing that has breath glorify him! Let every creature, visible and invisible, give praise!

Blessed is the man who opens his lips to praise God of sabaot, praises the Lord with his heart.

Blessed is he who opens his lips to the blessing and praise of God.

Blessed is he who blesses all the works of the Lord.

Blessed is he who looks to raise his own hand for labour.

Blessed is he who preserves the foundations of his fathers from the beginning.

Blessed is he who establishes peace and love.

Blessed is he who does speak peace, not with his tongue, but in his heart, where is peace to all.

All these things will be revealed in the great day of judgement, in measures and in books.

My children, the appointed day and time have drawn near and constrain me to depart; the angels will come and stand before me on the earth waiting what has been ordered them. In the morning, I shall go to the highest Heavens to my eternal habitation. Therefore I tell you how to do all that is good before the face of the Lord.

Methusalem *Methuselah* מְתוּשָׁלָה having answered his father Enoch said:

— If it is good in your eyes, my father, let me put food before your face and then, having blessed our houses and your sons, and all your family, let your people be glorified by you; and then afterwards you will depart as God has said.

Enoch answered his son Methusalem and said:

— Hear my child, since God has anointed me with the oil of his glory, there has been no food in me and my soul remembers nothing of earthly pleasure, nor do I desire anything earthly.

Call all your brothers, all your families, and the elders of the people, that I may speak to them and depart as is appointed for me.

Methusalem hastened and called his brethren Regim, Riman, Ukhan, Khermion [Gaidal], and the elders of the people, and brought them all before the face of his father Enoch. Having blessed them, he spoke to them.

— Listen to me, my sons. In those days when the Lord came upon the earth for the sake of Adam, and visited all his creation which he had made himself. The Lord called all the cattle of the earth, all creeping things, all the fowls that fly in the air, and brought them all before the face of our father Adam.

He gave names to all living things of the earth, and the Lord made him lord over all. He put all things under his hands, subdued all to submission and obedience to Adam, for the Lord created Adam as master over all his possessions *on earth*.

The Lord will not judge any soul of beast on account of human, but he will judge the human's soul on account of the souls of beasts in the world to come. As there is a specific place for human according to the number of all the souls of men, so there is also of beasts; and not one soul which God has made will perish till the great judgement, and every soul of beast will bring charge against man if he feeds them badly.

The man who shall act lawlessly towards the souls of beasts, acts lawlessly towards his own soul; he shall offer and make his sacrifice of clean animals that he may preserve his soul. For he preserves his soul by offering a sacrifice from clean beasts and birds. Bind everything that is given you for food by the four feet, as atonement; he who acts righteously preserves *thereby* his soul.

He who shall kill an unwounded beast, kills its soul; he sins against his own flesh.

Any one who shall injure secretly an animal, sin against his soul, it is an evil custom.

He who shall injure a man's soul, injures his own soul; there is no salvation for his flesh, no forgiveness forever. He who shall kill a man's soul, kills his own soul, and destroys his own body; there is no salvation for him forever. He who shall prepare a net for another man, will fall into it himself; there is no salvation for him forever.

He who prepares a weapon against a man shall not escape punishment in the great judgement forever.

He who acts crookedly or speaks badly against any soul shall have any righteousness for himself forever. Therefore my children, preserve your heart from any wrong the Lord hates.

As a man asks for his soul from God, so let him do unto every living soul.

For in the world to come, I know all things, how there are many mansions prepared for men - good for the good, evil for the evil, many without number. Blessed are those who shall go to the mansions of the blessed! For there is no rest in the miscreant ones, nor any means of return from them.

Listen my children, small and big. If a man conceives a good thought in his heart to offer before the Lord the works which his hands have not wrought: the Lord will turn his face away from the man's hands so he cannot gain advantage from his hand's work; if his hands have wrought but his heart murmurs continually and does not make an offering of his heart: he has no success by murmuring.

Blessed is the man of patience who brings his gifts before the face of the Lord, for he shall avert the recompence of his sin. If he speaks words out of season there is no repentance for him: if he lets the appointed time pass and does not perform the work, he is not blessed; for there is no repentance after death. For every deed which a man does unseasonably is an offence before men, and a sin before God.

A man who clothes the naked, and feeds the hungry, gets recompense from God.

But he works for himself a double evil if his heart murmurs: he works destruction to what he gives, and there shall be no reward for it.

The poor man whose heart is satisfied, or whose flesh is clothed, and behaves with disdain: he destroys all the reward of his endurance to poverty, he shall not gain the blessing. The Lord hates every disdainful, and those who speak with self-importance and every lying word to cover wrong: they will be cut with a sharp deadly sword to be thrown in the fire and bum for ever.

When Enoch said these words to his sons, all far and near heard how the Lord called Enoch. The princes of the people and the people took counsel and all said:

— Let us go and kiss Enoch!

The men, 3,000 in number, assembled and came to the place Achuzan where Enoch and his sons were. The elders of the people came together, made obeisance, kissed Enoch, and said to him:

— Father Enoch, blessed of the Lord the eternal King: bless your sons and all the people that we may be glorified before you today! You are glorified before the face of God forever since the Lord has chosen you, above all men on earth, to appoint you scribe of his creation visible and invisible, in revenge against men's sins, in rescue for your family.

- Listen my children, Enoch answered all his people, the Lord made all things before all creatures were made, and anything existed, both visible and invisible. After the times passed that these things came, understand how, after all these things, he made Adam after his likeness, in his own image, and placed in him, eyes to see, ears to hear, a heart to understand, a reason to take counsel.

The Lord contemplated the world for the sake of Adam, making all the creation for his sake, and divided it into times. From times he made years, from years he made months, from months he made days, and from days he made seven; and in these he made the hours, and divided them into small parts, for Adam to understand the seasons, to calculate the years, the months, and the hours, their beginnings, ends, and alternations; for Adam to calculate his life from the beginning to death, to meditate his sin, and to write his wrong deeds and the good ones.

As nothing is hidden before the Lord from all that is done on earth, let each man know his deeds, and not transgress the commands, that he keeps my writings purposefully from generation to generation; until all the creation visible and invisible comes to the end that the Lord has made, then each man will come to the great judgement of the Lord. Thereby the times will perish, there will be no year, no month or day, there will be no hours to be reckoned, there will be one eternity. All the just who will escape the great judgement of the Lord will be gathered in eternal life: the just shall be together, gathered for ever and ever, and they shall be eternal.

There will be no labour, no sickness, no sorrow, no anxiety, no need, no night or darkness, but a great light, that will be unto them a great wall that cannot be broken, bright and incorruptible, and the Garden shall be their protection and their eternal habitation. All corruptible things will vanish and there will be eternal life.

My children, preserve your souls from all the wrongdoing that the Lord hates, but *rather* walk before his face with trembling fear to serve him only. Worship the true God, not dumb idols. Pay attention to his command. Bring every requested offering before his face. The Lord hates what is unfair: he sees every thing, whatever man's heart meditates, the counsel he plans, and every thought, continually before the Lord.

If you look at Heavens, the Lord is there; the Lord made the Heavens.

If you look at the earth, the Lord is there; the Lord made firm the earth and established every creature in it. If you look at the sea's depths, everything under earth, the Lord is there; the Lord created all things. Do not bow down to the Lord's work, nor to men's work, neglecting the Lord of all creation.

No deed is hidden before the face of the Lord.

My children, walk in faith and truth, in the promises, even in long suffering *toughness*, in humility, in spite of calumny and insult, in sickness, in abuse, in wounds, in temptation, in nakedness, in deprivation, loving one another, till you depart from this sick world to be heirs of eternity: for blessed are the just who will escape the great judgement. They will be seven times brighter than the sun; for in the ages altogether, the 7th part is separated. As for the light, the Garden, food, sweetness, bitterness, Darkness, tortures, fires, frosts, and other things; I have put all this in writing that you may read and understand.

After Enoch had discoursed with the people, the Lord sent a darkness on the earth. There was a gloom which hid those men standing with Enoch; the angels hasted to take Enoch and carried him to the highest Heaven where the Lord received him, and set him before his face. Then the darkness departed from the earth and there was light. The people did not understand how Enoch was taken and glorified God. And they departed to their houses.

Enoch was born the 6th day of the month tsivan, he lived 365 years, he was taken into Heaven the 1st day of tsivan, and he was in Heaven 60 days. He wrote the descriptions of all which the Lord had made as the creation; he wrote 366 books and gave them to his sons. He was on earth 30 days, and so he was taken to Heaven in the

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

Enoch

same month tsivan,¹¹ on the 6th day, the same day he was born at the same hour. As each man has but a dark existence in this life, so also his beginning of birth and departure from this life. He began in the hour he was born, in that he departs.

Methusalem hasted with all his brethren, sons of Enoch, to build an altar in the place called Achuzan whence Enoch was taken up to Heaven. They took cattle and invited all the people to sacrifice before the face of the Lord. All the people came, the elders of the people and all the host of them to the festivity, and brought their gifts to the sons of Enoch. They made a great festivity, rejoicing and being merry for three days, praising God who had given such a sign by means of Enoch who had found favour with him, and that they should hand it to their son's sons from generation to generation for ever.



¹¹ Tsivan 6, 2018, happened to be on Shavouot/Pentecost.

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

MELCHIZEDEK'S BIRTH

El Nascita di Melchizedec, nel Libro segreto sul rapimento di Enoch il giusto 69-73

On the 3rd day, at the time of evening, the elders of the people spoke to Methuselab, saying: —Come and stand before the face of the Lord, before the face of your people, and before the altar of the Lord, and you will be glorified in your people. Methuselab answered his people: —O Lord God of my father Enoch, it is he himself who will raise a priest over his people. The people waited all night that night in the Azuchan place and Methuselab remained at the altar and prayed to the Lord and said: —Lord of all the century, who are the only one, who chose our father Enoch. O Lord, reveal a priest for your people and make the hearts heard of your glory and do everything according to your will. Methuselab fell asleep and the Lord appeared to him in a nocturnal vision and said to him: —Listen Methuselab, I am the Lord God of your father Enoch. Listen to the voice of your people to stand before them and in front of my altar, and I will glorify you before this people of mine for all the days of your life. Methuselab, having risen from his sleep, blessed him who had appeared to him. The elders of the people turned to Methuselab in the morning and the Lord God directed the heart of Methuselab to hear the voice of the people and he said to them: —May the Lord our God do on his people what is good in his eyes. Sarsan, Charmis and Zazas and the elders of the people buried and wrapped up Methuselab in a splendid garment and put a bright crown on his head. The people buried and the people led sheeps and oxen and birds, all carefully chosen, to Methuselab to be sacrificed (before) in the face of the Lord and in front of the people. Methuselab went up to the place of sacrifice of the Lord, as the morning star rises and all the people went to its place. Methuselab stood near the altar and all the people around the altar. The elders of the people took the rams and the oxen, bound them all fours feet, and placed them at the head of the altar, and the people said to Methuselab: —Take your knife and slay these carefully chosen animals (in front) of the face of the Lord. Methuselab stretched out his hands to Heaven, called upon the Lord, saying: —Alas Lord, who am I to stand at the head of your altar, and at the head of all your people... Now O Lord, Lord! Cast your eyes upon your servant, on the head of all your people, on all that has been carefully chosen, and gives grace to your servant before this people, so that they may understand that it is you who have established a priest for your people. It happened that while Methuselab prayed, the altar shook, the knife lifted from the altar and leaped into the hands of Methuselab before all the people. All the people began to tremble and glorified the Lord. Methuselab was honored (before) in the face of the Lord and in front of all the people from that day. Methuselab took and slain all that came from the people, and the people rejoiced before the face of the Lord and the face of Methuselab that day, and then went into their homes. From that day Methuselab was at the head of the altar and at the head of all the people. In 1480, he visited the whole earth and sought out all those who believed in the Lord; those who had changed them, he corrected them and converted them, and found no man who turned away from the face of the Lord for all the days that Methuselab lived. The Lord blessed Methuselab and had benevolence for his sacrifices and his gifts, and for all the service that he served (before) in the face of the Lord. After the end of the days of Methuselab, the Lord appeared to him in a nocturnal vision and told him: —Listen Methuselab, I am the God of your father Enoch. I want you to know that the days of your life are over, for you approach to the day of your rest. Call Nir, the 2nd son of your son Lamech to put on your sacred garments and place him at my altar; and tell him every-thing that will happen to him in his days, of the whole earth, of every man, of all that moves on the earth, since in his days there will be a great disorder on the earth, because man has become envious of his neighbor and people will hurl themselves against people, and nation will raise war against nation; the whole earth will be filled with blood and evil disorder. Moreover, they will abandon their Creator and worship what is fixed in Heaven, what walks on earth, the waves of the sea, and the adversary will exult and rejoice in their works for my affliction. The whole earth will change its order, and every fruit and every herb will change their times because they will wait for the time of destruction. And all the nations will change on earth for my affliction. Then I will command the Abyssal waters to come out and fall upon the earth, and the deposits of the heavenly waters will come out and rush to

the earth in a great matter, according to the first matter, and the whole constitution of the earth will perish and the whole earth will be shaken and deprived of its firmness since that day. Then I will preserve Noah, the first-born son of your son Lamech, and cause another world to rise from his seed, and his seed will last for centuries. Methuselab rose from his sleep greatly afflicted by the dream. He called all the elders of the people and told them everything the Lord had told him, and the vision of what had appeared to him from the Lord. The people were afflicted with his vision and answered him: —The Lord has the power to do according to his will and now he does everything as the Lord has told you. Methuselab called Nir, the 2nd son of Lamech and dressed him in the robes of the priesthood in front of all the people, and placed him at the head of the altar and taught him everything he had to do among the people. —Nir will be in front of you, from this day, the guiding principle. The people ans-swered: —Methuselab, let him be for us and for the word of the Lord, as he has told you. While Methuselab spoke to the people, his soul was troubled; he bent his knees and stretched his hands to Heaven and prayed to the Lord; and while he prayed, his spirit came out. Nir and all the people hurried to build a tomb for Methuselab and placed incense and cane for him and many sacred things. Nir and the people went, lifted up the body of Methuselab and placed it in the sepulcher that had built it and covered it. The people said: —Blessed was Methuselab (before) in the face of the Lord and in front of all the people! From there they gathered and Nir said to the people: —Hurry up today, bring the ram, the bull, the turtledove and the dove, so that we sacrifice (before) the face of the Lord and rejoice today and then go to your homes. The people listened to Nir the priest, hurried and led (the animals) and bound them at the head of the altar. Nir took the knife of sacrifice and sacrificed (before) to the face of the Lord. The people hurried to do (what it should) and rejoiced (before) in the face of the Lord; all the day the Lord God, Savior of Nir, was glorified before the people. From that day all was in peace and in order over the whole earth in the days of Nir, for 202 years. After this the people turned away from the Lord and began to be envious of each other; and people rose up against the people, and nation rose up in war against nation, and there was great turbulence. Nir the priest heard and was greatly afflicted and said in his heart: —The time has come, may it please God for the word the Lord said to Methuselab, father of my father. Here is Sofonim, his wife of Nir, being sterile had not begat (child) to Nir. Sofonim was at the time of old age, on the day of death, and conceived in his womb. Nir the priest had not slept with her since the day on which the Lord had placed him before the people. Sofonim was ashamed and hid every day, and none of the people heard about her. She was at the day of delivery, Nir remembered his wife and called her to visit (her) house to converse with her. Sofonim went to see her husband, she was pregnant at the time of delivery. Seeing her, Nir was greatly ashamed of her and said to her: —Why did you do this woman, and shame me in front of all the people? Now get away from me, go where you conceived the shame of your womb, because I will not put my hands upon you and sin (before) in the face of the Lord. Sofonim replied to her husband, saying: —Behold, my lord, the time of my old age, the ardour of youth has not been in me, and I do not know how the indecency of my womb was conceived. Nir did not believe her and Nir told her a second time: —Go away from me, so that I do not strike you and sin (before) the face of the Lord. It happened that while Nir spoke to his wife, Sofonim fell at the foot of Nir and died. Nir became very afflicted and said in his heart: —Did that happen to you by my word? Now, the eternal Lord is merciful, because my hand has not been on her. Nir hurried to close the door of his house and went to his brother Noah, and told him everything that had happened to his wife. Noah hastened to his brother's room and the appearance of his brother's wife (was) in death and his womb (was) in the time of childbirth Noah said to Nir: —Do not be afflicted, Nir my brother, because the Lord today has covered our shame; because none of the people know it and now let us hurry; bury it and the Lord will cover our shame. I will put Sofonim on a bed, dressed her in black robes, closed the door and dug a tomb in secret. They went out for her grave, the boy came out of the corpse of Sofonim and was sitting on the bed. Noah and Nir went in to bury Sofonim and saw the boy sitting near the corpse, drying his garment. Noah and Nir were very frightened and the child had in fact the body well made and spoke

with his mouth to bless the Lord. Noah and Nir looked at him a lot, saying: —This (comes) from the Lord, my brother; here is the seal of the priest-hood (was) on his chest and (was) glorious in appearance. Noah said to Nir: —Behold Brother, the Lord renews the abode presence of sanctification after us. Nir and Noah hurried to wash the boy and dressed him in the robes of the priesthood. Nir gave him the blessed breads and he ate. And they called him by the name of Melchizedek. Noah and Nir took the body of Sofonim, undressed her black robes, washed her body and dressed her in bright chosen robes and built her another tomb. Noah, Nir, and Melchizedek went and buried it openly (and) honorably. Noah said to his brother: Guard the child in secret until the time (favorable), since people have become-m wicked over the whole earth; and seeing it, somehow they will make him die. And Noah went to his place. Because there were much iniquities upon all the earth in the days of Nir, Nir grieved much more for the boy, saying: —What will I do with him? Stretching his hands to Heaven, Nir called upon the Lord, saying: Alas, O eternal Lord! All iniquities have multiplied on earth in my days, and I understand that our end is near. Now Lord, what is the appearing of this child: what is his destiny, what will I do with him, why be involved with us in this destruction? The Lord heard Nir and appeared to him in a nocturnal vision and said: —Behold Nir, a great perdition has already taken place on earth, I will not suffer it, nor will I endure it any more. Here I am thinking to drop a great destruction down to earth. Do not worry for the boy, Nir, I will soon send my archangel Michael and he will take the child and lay him in the Garden of Eden; he will not perish with those who must perish. I have shown him and he will be Melchizedek my priest of priests; in the centuries, I will sanctify him and transform him into a great people that will sanctify me. Rising from his sleep, Nir blessed the Lord who appeared to him, saying: —Blessed is the Lord God of our fathers who did not blame my priesthood in the priesthood of my fathers! Because your word has created a great priest in the womb of Sofonim my wife. I have no offspring, and this child, in the place of my descendants, will become my son and you will count him with your servants, with Sonfi, Onoch, Rusi, Milam, Seruch, Arusan, Nail, Enoc, Methuselab, and your servant Nir; and Melchizedek will be the head of the priests in another lineage. I know that this lineage will end in confusion, that all will perish, and Noah my brother will be preserved in another lineage for procreation, and from his race a large people will rise and Melchizedek will become the head of the priests in a people of a kingdom that serves you Lord. According to that, when the child had finished forty days in the abode of Nir, the Lord said to the Archangel Michael: —Go down to the earth to Nir the priest and take the child Melchizedek who is with him, and place him in the Garden of Eden in custody; for the time is come near already that I will let all the waters go down on the earth to destroy all that is on earth. I will raise another lineage and Melchizedek will be the chief of the priests in that lineage. Michael hurried and flew at night. Nir slept at night on his bed and Michael, appeared to him and said: —Thus said the Lord to Nir: Grant me the child whom I have entrusted to you. Nir did not recognize him that spoke to him and his heart was troubled, saying: If the people come to know of the child, they will take him and kill him because the heart of the people has become wicked before the face of the Lord. So he replied to Michael and said: —I have no child and I do not recognize who speaks with me. Michael said: —Fear not, Nir, I am the archangel Michael whom the Lord has sent, and lo, I will take your child today and go with him to place him in the Garden of Eden. Remembering his first dream, Nir believed and replied to Michael: —Blessed is the Lord who sent you today to me! Bless your servant Nir and take the child to make of him all that you have been told. Gabriel took that night on his wings the child Melchizedek and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Nir got up in the morning and went into the house and did not find the boy; he had joy and great affliction, because he had the child in place of a son. Glory to our God, now and always, for ever and ever.



NOAH

Sheol¹

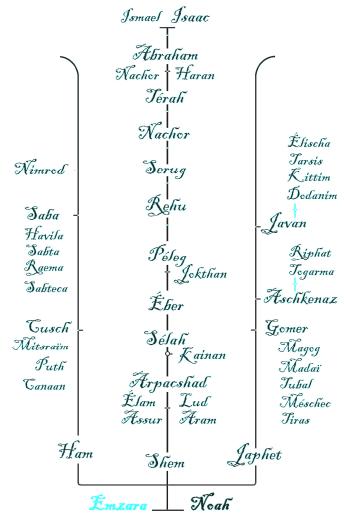
In the 28th jubilee, Noah נו began to enjoin the sons of his sons to the ordinances of the judgments and the law.

All that he knew, he exhorted his sons to observe all with accuracy, so that to bless their Creator, to honour father and mother, to love their fellow, to cover their flesh, to keep their souls away from all fornication, iniquity and uncleanness.

THE WATCHERS

The three ordinances against the law² by which the flood came on the earth are luring³ the daughters of men, fornication, and assassination.

The watchers⁴ took themselves wives of all whom they chose to do uncleanness, and the sons born of them were nephilim *giants* גִּלְּוִים, they were all unlike and devoured each other. The giants⁵ slew the nephil, which slew the eljo *rephaim* רְפָאִים which slew mankind, and one another.



¹ The Book of Jubilees, translated (geez) by prof. Charles 1902. Chap.7

² Jubilees 5 - He sent his sword into their midst that each should slay his neighbour; and they began to slay each other till they all fell by the sword and were destroyed from the Earth. Their fathers were witnesses (*of their destruction*) and after this they were bound in the depths of the Earth for ever, until the day of the great condemnation, when judgment is executed on all those who have corrupted their ways and their works before the Lord. And He destroyed all from their places, and there was not left one of them whom he judged not according to all their wickedness. And the judgment of all is ordained and written on the Heavenly tables in righteousness, even (*the judgment of*) all who depart from the path which is ordained for them to walk in; and if they walk not therein, judgment is written down for every creature and every kind. There is nothing in Heaven, or Earth, or light, or darkness, or Sheol, or depth, or in the place of darkness (*which is not judged*); all their judgments are ordained, written, and engraved. He will judge in regard to all; the great according to his greatness, and the small according to his smallness, and each according to His way.

³ Luring (tempt a person or an animal to do something or to go somewhere, especially by offering some form of reward)

⁴ Watchers: although Genesis 6.4 pointed the watchers as sons of God בָּנֵי האֱלֹהִים, and mighty men בְּרִים; in The Book of Enoch, they are the angels who came down from Heaven, to instruct men.* Whereas previously, satan was thrown from Heaven to the deep (Abyss, Sheol), it spread through marine species (although its preferred takeover is to make humans eat what is forbidden); the watchers being sent on Earth spread through human females who begot giants, not educated in respect to God and others. *Jubilees 4, Charles 1913 - In his days the angels of the Lord descended on the Earth, those who are named the Watchers, that they should instruct the children of men, and that they should do judgment and uprightness on the Earth.

⁵ Giants: nephilim, Genesis 6.4, anakim עֲנָקִים and emim אֵמִים, Deuteronomy 2.10, repbaim, Deuteronomy 3.11

Every one allowed oneself to enjoy the pleasure to work iniquity. Much blood was shed and the earth was filled with malevolence. After that, they transgressed against the birds and the beasts, all those that walk and move on the ground.

Every desire of their human imagination was determined with arrogance and vice continually, and much blood was shed on earth. Because of their wicked deeds, for the blood they had shed in the midst of the earth, the Lord destroyed everything from the face of the earth; he destroyed everything. Only you, my sons, and I were left with all those that entered the ark with us.

LAWS ON BLOOD SHED

Now that I see your works in front of me, I see how seditions began among you and your children, because you do not walk in righteousness. You parted from one another since you began to walk in the path of destruction, being envious one another and not in peace, each one of you my sons with his brother. I fear on your behalf, for after my death you will shed blood on the earth; therefore you will be destroyed from the face of the earth.

Whoever sheds man's blood or eats flesh's blood will fully be destroyed from the earth.

No man who eats flesh's blood, or shed man's blood on earth will be left, nor living seed will be left to him under Heaven, but they shall go into Sheol: they will descend in the place of condemnation, in the darkness of the deep, and they will be fully removed into an intense death.

May no blood be on you of all the blood. May the blood shed be covered in the ground when you kill any beasts, cattle, or any that fly, all the days on the earth. As I have been commanded to testify to you and your children together, cover the blood of all flesh so you will do good for your souls.

Do not be like the ones who eat with blood, guard yourselves that no one eats blood in front of you. Do not suffer the soul *blood* to be eaten with the flesh; let not your life depend on the hands which shed blood for the earth will be purified and cleansed only by the blood of him who had shed it, throughout all his generations.

Now hearken, my children, work knowingly with judgment of righteousness that you may plant righteousness over the face of the whole earth, and may your glory rise before my God who saved me from the waters of the flood.

LAWS ON TREES BEARING FRUIT

And now, you will go build cities for yourselves and plant there all the plants that are upon the earth, and all trees bearing fruit moreover. The fruit of everything that is eaten will not be picked up in *the first* three years.⁶

In the fourth year, its *first* fruit will be accounted holy and presented before God Most-High who created earth, Heaven, and all things. Offer the first-fruits premises in the abundance of your wine and your *olive* oil on the altar of the Lord who receives it, and the servants of the Lord's house eat before the altar what is left.

In the sixth year, make release, so that all that you plant shall prosper; release it in righteousness and uprightness and you will be just.

For so, Enoch, the father of your father, did command to Methuselah his son; Methuselah to his son Lamech, and so Lamech commanded me all the things his fathers commanded him. My sons, I also will give you the or-

⁶ *Leviticus* 19.24

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ders as Enoch, the 7th in his generation, commanded his son in the 1st jubilee, while still living, and he commanded to testify to his son and to his son's sons, until the day of his death.



THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY GOD'S JUDGEMENT				
<i>The convicted</i>	<i>The witnesses</i>	<i>The criminal charge</i>	<i>The sentence</i>	
Satan	spirit	God's angels	Provokes rebellions against God	Expelled from Heaven to the Abyss (Sheol)
Adam	human	Eve, satan, snake	Broke the rule in Eden	Expelled from Eden for 5500 years
Cain	human	The blood	Murdered his brother Abel	Expelled from the Lord's face
The watchers	spirit	Enoch	Misled, fornicated, and assassinated	Locked for seventy generations ⁷
The giants	spirit & flesh	The human	Devoured & murdered living creatures	Slain each others
Cain's children	human	Noah	Addicted to adultery and incest	Drowned dead
Nimrod	human	Peleg	Erected a tower to avoid God's decrees	Division of languages
The idolaters from Serug to Abraham	human	Abraham	Worshipped idols, spirits multiplied	Winds and whirlwind ⁸
Pharoh	human	Jacob's children	Imposed hard work, slain male children	Ten plagues of Egypt
Jacob's children elders	human	Moshe, Joshua & Caleb	Distrust in God	Died after 40 years in the desert

⁷ *The Book of Enoch* 10, Dillmann 1893.

⁸ *The Book of Adam and Eve* 3-24 (p.174), Malan 1882 - After came Serok *Serug* his son, in whose days idol-gods of stone were openly worshipped in the world. The children of men began to make idols of stone. And the children of men multiplied upon the earth, and their wickedness increased also; for they had neither law or order, and no teachers to guide them in the way of righteousness, nor any one to be judge among them. Wherefore they grew worse and worse, and wandered farther from the way of God; every one of them did what he himself listed, and they made for themselves idol-gods, which they worshipped. They had no hope in the resurrection of the dead. But whenever one of them died, they buried him and set up an idol over his grave, and said, that was his god, that would show him mercy in his grave. They said also, as regards the dead, that when his god was set up over his grave, the remembrance of him would not cut off from the face of the earth. This was a common saying brought out by satan, and the earth was thus filled with idols, and those idols were of divers kinds, men and women. When Nahor was 86 years of age, God looked down upon the children of men that they were ruined and worshipped idols. Then God sent forth winds, and the whirlwind, and earthquakes on the earth, until the idols were broken one against another. Yet the children of men did not repent of their sins, neither did they turn to God from their iniquities that he might save them, but rather increased in wickedness. | *The Book of Jubilees* 11.4, Charles 1902 - And they made for themselves molten images, and they worshipped each the idol, the molten image which they had made for themselves, and they began to make graven images and unclean simulacra, and malignant spirits assisted and seduced into committing transgression and uncleanness. And the prince Mastema *satan* exerted himself to do all this, and he sent forth other spirits, those which were put under his hand, to do all manner of wrong and sin, and all manner of transgression, to corrupt and destroy, and to shed blood upon the earth. For this reason he called the name of Seroh *Serug* for every one turned to do all manner of sin and transgression. | *Tales of Solomon* 4 (p.85), Seymour 1924 - Solomon entered this building, and he saw a seated image; any who looked upon it would have deemed that it lived; and as Solomon drew near to it, the image trembled, and cried with a loud voice: Come hither, you children of Iblis [i.e. *satan*], for King Solomon is come to destroy you! Fire and smoke came from its nostrils, and immediately there arose a loud and bitter cry among the demons, there was Earthquake and thunder. But Solomon cried aloud to them: Will you seek to terrify me! Do you not know that I am Solomon the King, reigning over all the creatures which the Almighty has created! Behold I shall chastise you with every sort of chastisement since you rebel against me. When he pronounced the ineffable Name of God, immediately they were motionless, not one of them was able to speak, and all the images fell upon their faces; and the sons of Iblis fled and went and cast themselves into the sea, so that they might not fall into the hands of Solomon.



ABRAHAM

*The idolaters*¹

This is the book of revelation of Abraham אַבְרָהָם, son of Terah, of Nahor, of Serug, of Reu, of Peleg, of Eber, of Selah, of Arphaxad, of Shem, of Noah, of Lamech, of Methuselah, of Enoch, of Jared, of Mahalalel, of Kenan, of Enosh, of Seth, of Adam.

On the day while I polished the idols of my father Terah and of his brother Nahor, I searched who truly was the almighty god. At the time which fell to my lot,² I Abraham fulfilled the services to my father Terah for his idols of wood, stone, gold, silver, brass and of iron.

Entered in their temple for service, I found the idol of carved stone, Merumat, fallen at the feet of the idol of iron, Nahon. Seeing this, my heart and my mind was perplexed. Unable to put it back alone, because it was a heavy large stone, I went to inform my father and both of us moved it to put it to its place. While I was holding its head, it fell from it. My father said to me:

- Abraham!
- Here I am.
- Bring me an axe of the small ones from the house, he said.

When I brought it to him, he carved Merumat anew out of another stone, and placed on it the head fallen from Merumat and crushed the rest of it. Then he made five other idols and gave them to me, telling me to sell them outside, in the street of the town.

I saddled my father's donkey, placed them on it, and went to the inn to sell them. Merchants from Fandana of Syria were travelling with camels to Egypt to trade. When I spoke with them, one of their camels groaned and scared the donkey which moved away, and the idols shook and fell; three were smashed and two preserved. Seeing that I had idols, the syrians said to me:

- Why did you not tell us, they would not have been lost! Give us what remain at any rate, we will give you

¹ *The Apocalypse of Abraham*, transl. (old Slavonic) Box 1918.

² Sefer 26 - Abraham was 7 years old when he began to seek God. When God spoke to him, after the temple of idols burned, Abraham had come to the age of 12 years.

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the proper price for them.

I was concerned how I could bring the purchase price to my father for the three broken ones, which I cast in River Gur, into the depths at that place; they sank and there was nothing more of them.

When I was still on the way, my heart was perplexed within me, my mind was distracted. I said in my heart: What bad deed is my father doing... rather he is the creator of his idols which came to exist by his skill, his chisels and lathes. Rather it is fitting that they should worship my father as they are his work. What is my father's delusion about his works? Lo, Merumat fell, unable to rise in its own temple. Nor could I move it by myself until my father came to move together. When its head fell, he set it on another idol of stone he made. The other five idols broke down from the ass, unable to help themselves to come out of the river or to take revenge on the ass for having broken them. Again I said in my heart: How can my father's idols rescue a man or reward a man's prayer, having the head of another stone, itself made of stone?

I reached my father's house while I was yet thinking. I watered the ass, put hay for it, and brought the silver to my father Terah. He was glad and said:

- Abraham, you are blessed by my idols! You have brought the idols' price so that my work was not in vain.
- Hear Terah, my father, I answered. The idols are blessed by you: since you have made them, you are their idol! But for their blessing, it is ruination, and their power is vain. If they can not help themselves, how could they help you or bless me!

I thought of you with kindness in this affair, and have brought you the money for the broken idols.

He became furiously angry against me at my word, because I had said hard words about his idols. I thought my father's anger was gone. However, he said:

- Collect the wood's fragments from the idols of pine-wood I made before you came. And make ready the food of my mid-day meal, he said.

While I was collecting the fragments of wood, it came to pass that I found a little idol lying among the brushwood. On its forehead was written idol Barisat. I did not inform my father. I laid the fragments in the fire in order to make ready the food for my father, and before I went out to ask a question concerning the food, I placed Barisat before the fire, threatening it, saying:

- Pay attention Barisat that the fire does not die until I return, blow on it if it dies!

I went out for my purpose, and on my return, I found Barisat fallen backwards, its feet surrounded by fire and badly burnt. I burst out laughing and I said to myself: Truly you can light the fire and cook food...

And while I spoke in my laughter, it came to pass that it was burnt by fire and reduced to ashes. I brought food to my father and I gave him wine and milk. He did eat and was glad; he blessed his idol Merumat.

- Father Terah, I said, do not bless your idol Merumat, nor praise him. Rather, praise your idol Barisat who loves you more, because it cast itself into the fire to cook your food!
- Where is he now? He said.
- It burnt to ashes in the strength of the fire, and reduced to dust.
- Great is the power of Barisat! I will make another today, and tomorrow he will prepare my food, he said.

When I Abraham heard such words, I sighed with grief in the anger of my soul, saying to myself: How fabricated statues made by him can be a help to my father? If the body is subject to the soul, and the soul to the spirit, how shall the spirit be to foolishness and ignorance? And I said: It is fitting to endure evil once. Now I will direct my mind in what is pure, and set my thoughts openly in front of him. And I answered him:

— Father Terah, no matter which one of these you praises as an idol, foolishness is in your mind. The idols of your brother Haran in the temple are more worthy of honour than yours; for Zucheus, your brother's idol is more worthy of honour than your idol Merumat because it is made of gold, a very high value by people. And when it gets older in years, it will be molded again. But if the stone of Merumat is broken, it will not be renewed.

This is also the case with Joavon, the idol that stands with Zucheus over the other idols, which are made of silver. Before Barisat was prepared, its wood rooted in the earth, great and wonderful, with the glory of branches and blossom, before you hewed with the axe. Lo, its fatness has withered and perished, fallen from height to the ground, from great to little, and its countenance is vanished. Barisat is no more; burnt in the fire and reduced to ashes. As you said: Today I will make another one to make ready my food tomorrow. But it has perished, entirely destroyed!

Fire is more worthy of honour than all things formed, even what is not subject to it will be subject, because its flames mocked perishable things.

Even more worthy of honour is water, because it defeats fire and satiate the earth: even so I do not call it God, because it is subject to the earth to which the water inclines.

I say the earth is much more worthy of honour, because it overpowers the nature of water. However, even so, I do not call it God, for it dries by the sun and is to be tilled by men according to their lot.

I say the sun is more worthy of honour than the earth, because its rays illuminate the whole world and others atmospheres: even so I do not call it God, because its course is obscured by clouds and at night.

No either do I say the moon or the stars are God, because they do also obscure light at night in their season.

Hear father Terah, for I will make you known the God who has made everything, not these we behold as idols. Who he is then who makes Heavens crimson, the sun golden, and moon and stars glimmering? Who made the earth dried in the centre of many waters, and placed you in? Yet God reveals himself to us through himself!

While I was talking to my father Terah in the court of the house, it came to pass that the voice of a Mighty one, coming down from Heaven in a fiery cloud-burst, said aloud:

— Abraham, Abraham.
— Here I am.
— You, who seek the Creator God of all in the understanding of your heart, here I am. Go out from your father Terah's house so that you will be not slain too for the sins of your father's house, the voice said.

So I went out, and arrived in front of the door of the court, it came to pass that a great thunder's sound came down, and he and his house burnt down to the ground, with everything whatsoever in his house of forty cubits. Thereafter a voice came to me, saying twice:

— Abraham, Abraham!
— Here I am, I said.

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— Fear not. I am God Almighty before the worlds, he who has created the light of the world. I am your shield and your helper: because you have loved to search for me, I have named you my friend. Go take me a three years old heifer, a three years old she-goat, a three years old ram, a turtledove and a pigeon, to be offered to me as a pure sacrifice. By this sacrifice, I will put the ages in front of you, to make you know that which is secret; you will see great things which you had never seen. For forty (40) days, abstain from any food that is proceed through fire, from drinking wine, and from anointing oil: present me your necessary sacrifices on the high mountain that I will show you. From there, I will show you the ages I created and established, and made anew by my word. I will make you known what will come to pass on those who do righteousness and evil, in the generation of men.

It came to pass, when I heard the voice of him who said such words, I looked hither and thither, and lo, there was no man's breath. My spirit was so frighten that my soul left me, I became as a stone fallen on the ground with none strength to stand. I was still lying, face on the ground, when I heard the voice of the holy One:

— Go Jaoel by means of my ineffable Name, raise me this man afar and strengthen him from trembling.

The angel sent came to me in the likeness of man and grasped my right hand, he put me on my feet and said:

— Stand up, friend who loves God! Don't let human's trembling seize you. Lo, I was sent to strengthen you and to bless you in the Name of God, you who love the Creator of the celestial and terrestrial. Be quick and fearless unto him. I am called Jaoel by him who moves that power to exist with me, on the seventh expanse of the firmament, by the virtue of the ineffable Name that dwells in me. I am the one who was given to restrain according to his command the threat of attack of the living creatures of cherubim against one another.³ I teach those who carry him the song of the seventh hour of the night⁴ of man. I am ordained to restrain the leviathan; for unto me are subject the threat of attack of every single reptile. I am he who is commissioned to loosen Sheol to destroy him who stares at the dead. I am the one who is commissioned to set on fire your father's house together with him, because he displayed reverence for dead. Now I have been sent to bless you, and the land which the Eternal one *El olam* אל עולם whom you have invoked has prepared for you. And for your sake, I have wended⁵ my way upon the earth. Stand up Abraham, come without fear, just be glad and rejoice, I am with you. Everlasting honour is prepared for you by the Eternal one. Go fulfil the sacrifices commanded. Lo, I have been appointed to be with you and with the generation, prepared from you, and with me Michael bless you for ever. Be of good cheer, go.

I rose up and saw him who grasped me by my right hand and set me on my feet. The appearance of his body was as sapphire and his face as chrysolite,⁶ his head's hair as snow, his head's turban as the rainbow, his garments as purple, in his right hand was a golden sceptre. He said to me:

— Abraham!

³ *Ezekiel* 9.3 spoke of a man clothed in white linen carrying a writer's inkhorn on his side

⁴ *Seventh hour of the night*: And at the seventh hour, the Earth was hushed in silence and every creature that was upon it, and the waters slumbered. And if at this hour the priest takes some water and mixes holy oil with it, and he anoints therewith the sick and those who cannot sleep at night because of *their* pain, those who are sick will be healed, and those who are wakeful will fall asleep. *The Book of the Cave of Treasure*, s. Ephrem, transl. by Budge 1927.

⁵ *Wended*: go in a specified direction, typically slowly or by an indirect route.

⁶ *Daniel* 10.5 - I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz; his body also was like chrysolite, and his face as the appearance of lightning, his eyes as torches of fire, his arms and his feet like in colour to burnished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

- Here I am, your servant.
- Let not my look or my speech affright you, that your soul be not perturbed. Come with me and I will go visible with you until the sacrifice, but invisible for ever after the sacrifice. Be of good cheer, go.

We went the two of us together forty (40) days and nights. The sight of the angel was my food and his speech was my drink, I ate no bread and drank no water, we came to Horeb, the glorious mount of God.⁷ I said to the angel:

- Singer of the Eternal one! Lo, I have no sacrifice with me and I am not aware of a place of an altar on the mount, how can I bring a sacrifice?
- Look around, he said.

I looked around, and lo, all the prescribed sacrifices were following us: the young heifer, the she-goat, the ram, the turtle-dove and the pigeon. And the angel said to me:

- Slaughter all these, he said, divide the animals into halves, one facing the other, and give them to the men that I will show you while standing by you; they are the altar of the mount whereto offer a sacrifice to the Eternal. Do not divide the birds. Give me the turtledove and the pigeon; I will ascend on the wings of the bird so that to show you Heaven, the earth, the Sea, the Abyss, the Underworld *Sheol*, the Garden of Eden and its rivers: you shall gaze all the fullness of the whole world and its circles.

I did everything according to the command of the angel. I gave the divided animals to the angels who came to us and the angel took the birds. While I was waiting for the evening sacrifice, an unclean bird flew down on the carcasses. When I drove it away, the unclean bird⁸ spoke to me.

- Abraham, what do you do on the holy height where no one eats or drinks any food for man, but fire which consumes everything and burns you... Forsake the man who is with you and flee. They will make an end of you if you ascend to the heights.

When I behold the bird speak, I said to the angel:

- What is this, my lord?
- It is the impious Azazel. Disgrace on you Azazel! He said to it. The lot of Abraham is in Heaven, but yours in the earth since you choose to love it as the dwelling of your impurity. The Eternal, mighty Lord made you to dwell on earth, with the wicked spirit of lying through you, for the trials and wrath to the generations of ungodly men through you!

God Eternal Almighty does not consent to be in your hand the righteous' bodies thereby allowing to destroy impurity by a righteous' life. Begone from me with shame! It is not permissible to you to play the tempter in regards to all the righteous. Depart from this man! You can not lead him astray because he is an enemy for you and those who follow you and love what you desire. For lo, the investiture which was formerly your, is reserved for him in Heaven, and the mortality which was his, is transferred to you.

The angel said:

⁷ Moses has spent 40 nights and days on Horeb, refer to *The Book of Jubilees*.

⁸ See *Leviticus* 11.13 for unclean birds.

- Abraham!
- Here I am, your servant.
- Know that you are chosen by the Eternal one because of your loving good faith towards him! Being empowered of this lordship, he said, I bid you to use it against whoso is wronging the truth, to humiliate him who has spread secrets of the Heaven over the earth in rebellion against God Almighty. Azazel, be the burning coal of the earth's furnace, go into the inaccessible parts of the earth, he said to him.

Then I said the word the angel taught me, and he said:

- Do not answer him, the angel said, since God gave him power over whoso answers him. In spite of all that he says to you, rather not answer him, so that his will may not have free access to you. Since the Almighty Eternal gave him weight and will, do not answer him.

I did as the angel commanded me, and I did not answer him whatsoever, in spite of what he told me.

When the sun has gone down, I behold a smoke as of a furnace. The angels ascended from the top of the smoking furnace with the pieces of the sacrifices. The angel took my right hand and set me on the right wing of the pigeon, setting himself on the left wing of the turtledove and led me to the borders of the flaming Fire, and we ascended as within many winds to the Heaven, as on a rigid surface. On this height I saw a mighty light, impossible to describe; lo in this light, a violent Fire burning for many people, people of male appearance, all changing in appearance and form, being transformed as they ran, worshipping, and shouting with resounding words that I did not know. I said to the angel:

- Since you have brought me here, I become already weak; my spirit is departing from me and I can not see.
- Fear not and remain by me, he said. The great voice of holiness that will come straight to us is the Eternal God whom you love, but himself you can not see him. Do not let your spirit become weak: I am with you to strengthen you.

While he was still speaking, lo, fire came straight to us around, and in the fire was a voice of many waters, a voice roaring like the sound of the sea. The angel bent his head and worshipped with me. I felt like falling down on the earth, but the height on which we stood rose upright at one moment, and at another rolled downwards. He said to me:

- Abraham, there is no earth where to fall, only worship and sing the song that I taught you.

And I worshipped only and said the song that he taught me. And he said:

- Recite without ceasing.

And I recited, and he also recited the song with me:

- Mighty Eternal! Holy, El, sole Supreme God, who is self-originated, incorruptible, spotless, uncreated, immaculate, immortal, self-complete, self-illuminating! Without father and mother, unbegotten, exalted, fiery! Lover of men, benevolent, bountiful, jealous over me and very compassionate!

Eli, Eternal God, Mighty of the holy sabaoth, highly glorious. El, El, El! The One my soul loves! Eternal protector shining like fire, whose voice is like the thunder, whose look is like the lightning!

All-seeing who receive the prayers of those who honor you! You who turn away from the requests of those who embarrass with their provocations! You who dissolve the confusion of the world that arise on the righteous from the ungodly *lawbreakers* in the impious-age, and who renew the righteous-age! You, light who shines upon your creatures before morning light on earth and in your heavenly dwellings. No other light is need than the unspeakable Splendour of the lights of your face.

Accept and be well-pleased with my prayer, likewise with the sacrifice you have prepared by me who sought you! Accept me favourably! Show me, teach me and make known to your servant, as you have promised me...

Whilst we recited the song without ceasing, on account of the rich abundance of light, the fire rose and I heard a voice roaring like the sea. As the fire rose and ascended into the light, I saw under the fire a throne of fire and the all-sighted around, reciting the song, and under the throne four fiery living-creatures who were singing, each one with four faces, whose appearance was one.

The four (4) living-creatures had sixteen (16) faces, which appearance was of a lion, a man, an ox, an eagle; four (4) heads on each body, with six (6)wings on their shoulders, their sides, and their loins. They cover their faces with their shoulders' wings, their feet with their loins' wings, and stretch the middle wings to fly straight. At the end of the song, they began to look at one another and threatened each other.

Once the angel by me saw that they were threatening each other, he went quickly to them and turned the face of each living-creature from the threatening face, so that they can not see the face threaten the other. And he taught them the song of peace which has its origin in the Eternal one.

As I stood alone, behind the living-creatures I behold a chariot with fiery wheels, each wheel filled of eyes around, and over the wheels a throne filled with fire, circled all around by fire, and lo, a fiery host circled by an indescribable fire and I heard his holy voice sounding like a man. A voice came to me out of the midst of the fire and said:

- Abraham, Abraham!
- Here I am, I said.
- Consider the spaces under the Heaven whence you are situated and see how on each single space, there is no other but the One whom you love and have sought!

While speaking, lo, the spaces of the Heavens opened beneath me.

On the 7th Heaven where I stood, I saw an invisible power of glory above the living-creatures which I had seen, and widely spread a multitude of angels of fire, light, and mist, with no other being.

From the height where I stood to the 6th Heaven, there I saw a multitude of angels of spirit who carry the orders of the fiery angels who are on the 8th Heaven. I stood suspended over this 6th Heaven, where the angels of spirit are alike the ones seen on the 7th Heaven, and no other form of power *angel*. At the voice's order to take away the 6th firmament, then I saw the firmament below.

On the 5th Heaven are the powers *angels* of star who carry the orders given to the elements of the earth who comply to them. The Eternal Almighty said:

- Abraham, Abraham!

- Here I am.
- Consider from above the stars beneath you if you can count them and make known their number, the Lord said.
- When can I? For I am but a man of ashes and dust.
- As the number of the stars and their power, I have made your seed a nation and a people set apart for me in my heritage *previously* with Azazel.
- Eternal Almighty, may your servant speak before you and may not your anger kindle against your Chosen one... Lo, before you led me up here, Azazel spoke to me with great hostility. How do you consider him while he is not before you now?
- Look now at the Heaven beneath your feet, and understand the foresight of creation in this space, the existing creatures according to the ages prepared.

I behold beneath what was there in the 6th Heaven, and I saw the earth and its fruits, its living beings and what moved on it, the power of its men, their righteous deeds, their deeds in the damned lower regions whilst their souls begin to lack piety, the Abyss and its torments. There I saw the Sea and its islands, its monsters and its fishes, the leviathan לְוִיתָן with its dominion, its camping-ground, its caves, the world laid upon it, its movements and destructions of the world on it account; the streams, the rising of their waters and their twisting movements. There I saw the Garden of Eden and its fruits, the source of the stream issuing from it, its trees and their bloom, and the ones who behave righteously. I saw therein their foods and their blessings. And there I saw a great multitude of men, women, and children; one half on the right, and one half on the left side.

- Eternal Almighty, what is this foresight of creatures? I said.
- That is my will regarding those who exist in the land council and appeared well-pleasing before my sight, and afterwards I gave them the order through my word. All that I determine to be takes place and stands in front of me before it exists, intended in advance in this you see.
- Eternal Lord Almighty! Who are these people on this side and that one?
- These on the left side are the multitude of peoples who once existed after you; some are meant for justice and restoration, others for revenge and destruction, at the end of the world. These on the right side are the people set apart for me of the peoples with Azazel. They are those I have determined to exist from you and called my people.

Now look again who it is who seduced Eve and what is the fruit of the tree, you will know what and how shall be to your seed among the people at the end of days of the ages. I will tell you what is kept in my heart and I will make you know what you can not understand for you are well-pleasing in my sight.

I turned my eyes to the side of the Garden of Eden and saw a man of distinctive appearance, of a long height and scary width, who embraced a woman alike in appearance shape, *both* stood under a tree of Eden whose fruit's shape is like vine grapes. A thing stood behind the tree, shaped as a snake, with man's feet and hands, and six wings on both sides of its shoulder.⁹ The grapes were in the hands of those I had seen embracing and they communed¹⁰ and ate it.

- Eternal Almighty! Who are these mutually embracing? Or what is this between them? Or what is the fruit they are eating?
- This is Adam, this is Eve, and this is their desire towards the earth. In the between, Azazel himself presents infringement¹¹ unto them, their beginning to perdition. This is the world of man.
- Eternal Almighty! Why did you give power to such destroyer of generations of men on the earth, in their works?
- I gave him power over those who infringe *the order*, and being loved of them, even I hated all those who do so.
- Eternal Almighty! Why did you wish that to happen? Or should desire be in the hearts of men? Or are you irritated with him who does not take advantage of your Counsel?
- There you see the yoke of my wrath on the people of your family who will separate after you and on the nations on your account. I will tell you what and how the last days shall be. Look now at everything.

There I saw the beings created before me: Adam, Eve with him, the enemy with them, Cain infringing the Orders with the enemy, Abel killed, the destruction begun with the lawbreakers; there were much impurity and lust for impurity, defilement, jealousy, and the corrupted fire in the lowest part of the earth. There I saw the robbery and lust for robbery, the plan of revenge, the judgement of the great court. There I saw men exposed face to face in disgrace, the harm done against the other, the revenge. There I saw the desire at the head of all lawbreaking deed, the disrespect at hand, the waste ascribed to perdition. There I saw the zealotry¹² alike as idol my father used to do in woodwork. A man worshipped its idol of glittering bronze colour facing an altar and a boy was murdered before the idol.

- Eternal Almighty! What is this idol? I inquired. Or what is the altar? Or who is sacrificed? Or who did sacrifice him? Or what is this temple crafted beautifully, which beauty is like the glory below your throne?
- Listen Abraham. You behold my thought of priesthood for my glorious Name: the beautiful altar and temple where dwell any single prayer of man, the arisen of prophets and kings, all ordained sacrifice offered to me among my people from your generation. My wrath is against the idolaters of the people who proceed from you for me, the murderer man you saw is him who incites murderous sacrifices; these are witness to me at the final judgement, even since the beginning of creation.

⁹ Book of Adam and Eve 27, Malan 1882 - The angel said to Adam: That is satan who wished to deceive you as at first when he was hidden in the serpent and come to you in the similitude of an angel of light, in order that you worshipped him and that he might enthrall you in the very Presence of God. | Sefer 40 - The serpent placed satan near to Eve while Adam her husband was sleeping. And satan presented itself before the woman like a beauteous messenger.

¹⁰ Communed: share one's intimate thoughts or feelings, especially when the exchange is on a spiritual level.

¹¹ Infringement: action of breaking the terms of a law, agreement; violation.

¹² Zealotry: fanatical and uncompromising pursuit of religious, or other ideals.

- Eternal Almighty, why did you determine it that way and make it known?
- Listen Abraham what I tell you. Understand and answer as I question you. Why your father Terah did not listen to your voice and did not cease the cursed idolatry for which he perished with his whole household?
- Because he chose not to listen to me, I too did not follow entirely his works.
- Listen Abraham. The counsel of your father is inside of him as your counsel inside of you; so also the counsel of my will is inside me, prepared for the coming days before you knew these or saw with your eyes in them. Now look how those of your seed will be.

When I looked, lo, the sight moved back and forth, and a heathen people emerged on the left and despoiled the men, women and children on the right, others they keep for themselves. I saw them run to four entrances and burn the temple, and plunder the holy things in there.

- Almighty Eternal! May the lawbreaker's deed the fade away! Rather, fulfil the righteous man's deed as per the commands, for you can do this.
- The righteous man's deed is meet first through holiness. Righteous kings and rulers were created at first to rule among them, but from them came out men more concern for their interests as I made known to you and as you saw.
- Almighty, by your holy power, be favourable to my petition... As you have brought me up to your height so that I may know your beloved ones, would it happen to them for a long time?

The Lord showed me a multitude of his people and said:

- They provoke me as you have seen on four generations meanwhile I will take revenge. I have determined for them twelve years of the impious-age among the heathen who will hold them back and oppress them in the fourth generation. Make your calculations and measurements: all you have seen will happen to your descendants until the time pass. And now look.

I behold a man being revered from many hosts, men, women and children came from the left, from the heathen side; while looking, came from the right side, some revered that man but others insulted and beat him. I saw his followers and how Azazel ran to revere him, kissing his face, standing in his behind.

- Who is that man who is insulted and beaten, also revered by the heathen and Azazel? I said to the Almighty.
- Listen Abraham. The man you saw being beaten, insulted, and then revered, is a relief to the heathen and to the people who proceed from you for the last days, in the 12th hour of the impious-age. This man you saw from my people of your generation, in the 12th year of my final-age, I will place him such as all who are called by me will join and follow him, as those who change their counsels, as you saw coming from the left side.

Many are the heathen who will set their hope on him. For those of your seed you saw on the right side, many will be offended at him. In that twelfth hour's end, he examines those of your seed who revere, intending to shorten the impious-age before the righteous-age begins to grow. My judgement will come from a people of your seed separated for me to the lawless. In those days, I will bring ten plagues to all creatures of the earth from misfortune to disease, to groan in grief for their soul. I will bring much more to the generations of men who are on earth, because they provoke the corrup-

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tion of its creatures, and thereby they provoke me. The number of the remaining righteous men of your seed, being kept secret by myself, will hurry to the place which you saw devastated, prepared beforehand for them with the glory of my Name; they will live to establish the truth in the righteous-age by righteous sacrifices and gifts, and will rejoice continually in me. They will behold me, filled of joy and happiness with my people, as they welcome those who turn to me with repentance. But those who have destroyed them will be destroyed, those who have injured them will be injured, those who have defamed them will be spitted in the face, those who have despised me will be despised.

Abraham, consider what you have seen and heard, and what you have come to know. Now go to your heritage, lo, I am with you for ever.

- Eternal Almighty! I am no longer in the Glory wherewith I was on height... My soul longs to understand what my heart does not understand, I said when I found myself on earth.
- I will tell you what your heart desires since you search to know the ten plagues I have prepared for the heathen beforehand at the passing over in the 12th hour of the earth. Listen to what I reveal you that shall come to pass:

1st pain, great distress;

6th, multiplication of snowy hail;

2nd, fire-blaze of many towns;

7th, the wild beasts will be their grave;

3rd, destruction of animals and pestilence;

8th, destruction with lack of food and pestilence;

4th, lack of food in the whole world;

9th, punishment by the sword and fight in distress;

5th, destruction of people by its rulers, by earthquake and sword;

10th, voices of thunder, destructive earthquake.

And then I will make the trumpet sound in the air and will send my elect one and all my power with him as one, to recall my despised people from the nations as one. Then I will burn with fire those who have insulted them and those who have overruled them in ages. I will deliver those who have filled me with mockery to the mockeries of the avenging-age. I have determined for them to be food for the fire of Sheol, ceaseless fight, filled with worms of the underworld beneath the earth. Above them, they shall see the Creator's righteousness, and those who choose to do my will, with those who keep openly my commands, who will rejoice over the fall of the remaining men who followed idolatry¹³ and their orders for murdering: their body will decay in azazel's dirt worm and burn in azazel's tongue heat. I had hoped they would come to me, but not to have love and praises for strangers, nor be involved with whom they were not appointed and have forsaken the Lord Almighty. Abraham, listen and see therefore. Lo, seven generation shall go with you in a strange land, where they will be enslaved and treated badly, but I will judge the nation they serve as it was an hour of the impious-age.



¹³ Idolatry: adoration of idols, excessive love for someone, something.

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THE THREE TRIBUNALS

The Testament of Abraham chap.12, Sparks 1984

Abraham said to Michael: —Sir, is this the angel that takes souls of their bodies, or is it not? Michael answered and said: —This is death; and he takes them away to the judgement-place for the judge to pass judgement on them. And Abraham said: —My lord, I beg you to take me to the judgement-place, so that I can see for myself how they are judged. Then Michael took Abraham on a cloud and brought him to The Garden. As he came near the place where the judge was, the angel appeared and presented a soul to the judge, and the soul was saying: —Have mercy on me. The judge said: —Why should I have mercy on you, when you yourself had no mercy on your daughter you had, your own child? Why did you murder her? The soul made answer: —No lord, I am no murderer! My daughter has told lies about me. Then the judge ordered the writer of the records to come; lo, the cherubim came carrying two books, with them was a man of immense size who had on his head three crowns called crowns of witness, one higher than the other two, and in his hand he had a pen of gold. The man opened one of the books belonging to the cherubim, and he searched for the sin of the woman's soul and found it. The judge said: —Wretched soul! How can you say that you have done no murder! After your husband's death, did you not go and commit adultery with your daughter's husband and kill your daughter! He convicted her of other sins as well, all that she had committed since she was a child. When the woman heard this, she cried out saying: —Alas, while I was in the world I forgot all the

sins I committed; but here they are not forgotten! Then they took her and handed her over to the torturers. Abraham said: —My lord prince, who is this wondrous judge, and who are these recording angels? Who is the angel like the sun who holds the scales? Who is the fiery angel who holds the fire? The prince said: —Most holy Abraham, do you see the terrifying man who is sitting on the throne: he is the son of the first man Adam, called Abel, and he was killed by the wicked Cain; he sits here to judge every creature, examining both righteous and sinners. Because God has said: —It is not I who judge you, but by man shall every man be judged, for this reason he has committed judgement to him, to judge the world until his own great and glorious Coming, and then, righteous Abraham, the final judgement and retribution will follow, eternal and unchangeable, which no one will be able to dispute. For all men have their origin from the first man, and so they are first judged here by his son. At the second stage, they and every spirit and every creature will be judged by the twelve tribes of Israel. At the third stage, they will be judged by the sovereign God of all, and then the whole process will reach its end at last; the sentences will strike terror; and there will be no one to rescind them. And so through three tribunals, the judgement of the world and its retribution will be accomplished. (And that is why a matter cannot finally be settled on the evidence of one or two witnesses but on the evidence of three witnesses every fact must be established). The two

angels, one on the right and one on the left, these record the sins and the good deeds, the one on the left the sins. The angel like the sun who holds the scales in his hand, he is the archangel Dokie; he preserves an honest balance, and weighs the good deeds and the sins with the justice of God. The fiery merciless angel who holds the fire in his hand, he is the archangel Pyrnel; he has power over fire, and tests men's deeds by fire: if the fire burns up a man's deed, the angel of judgement takes him at once and carries him to the sinners' place — a most disagreeable place of punishment; if the fire tests a man's deed and does not touch it, he is accounted righteous and the angel of righteousness takes him and carries him up to be saved among the number of the righteous. Thus, most righteous Abraham, all things in all men are tested by fire and scales. This one who presents the souls, he is the teacher of Heaven and earth, Enoch the scribe of righteousness. The Lord sent them here that the sins and the good deeds of each might be recorded. And Abraham said: —But how can Enoch take responsibility for the souls, since he has not himself experienced death? How can he pronounce sentence on all the souls? And Michael said: —If he were to pronounce sentence on them, his sentence would not stand. It is not Enoch's function to sentence, it is the Lord who sentences. Enoch's only function is to write. For Enoch prayed to the Lord, saying: —Lord, I have no wish to sentence souls, in case I might be harsh to any of them. Then the Lord said to Enoch: —I shall bid you to write the sins of the soul that makes atonement, and it shall enter into life. But if a soul makes no atonement and does not repent, you will find its sins in writing, and that soul will be sent to punishment.



JACOB

The righteous seers¹

This is what their father Jacob said to them when he blessed them and gave each one his own blessing.
— Come together my sons, I will tell you what will happen in the course of time. Sons of Jacob יַעֲקֹב, come and listen. Listen to your father Israel.

♦ **R e u b e n** רְאוּבֵן my firstborn, beginning of my manhood and my strength; first in rank and first in power. You will no longer be first. || Let Reuben live and not die; let not his men be few. | Reuben defiled his father's bed so his birthright was given to Joseph, son of Israel. The birthright was Joseph's. 1 Chronicles 5 Among the divisions of Reuben were great resolves of heart. Why do you sit among the sheepfolds to hear the flute pipings for the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben were great searches of heart. Judges 5.16

♦ *His revelation:* I recommend you to listen to Levi, for he knows the law of the Lord and interprets his precepts and offered sacrifice for all Israel, until the coming of the anointed messiah high cohen of whom the Lord has spoken. By the God of Heaven, I charge you to deal honestly each one with his neighbour, and to have love each one for his brother. Do approach Levi with humility so that you receive a blessing from his mouth for he will bless Israel and Judah since the Lord chooses him to rule as king over all the peoples. Accord to his sons appropriate reverence because they will die in wars seen and unseen on our behalf, and there will be among you an eternal king.

♦ **S i m e o n** שִׁמְעוֹן and **L e v i** לֵוִי are one to another for violence: their daggers were used to kill men in anger, in accord to cripple bulls. Accursed power of their anger and overflow of their rage: my soul does not enter in their conspiracy, my glory does not unite in their assembly. I will disperse them in Jacob, scatter them in Israel. || Of Levi. Let your toumei² תָּמִימִי and ourei אָוָרֵי be with your holy one tested at Massah, strived at Meribah's waters, who says to his father and mother: I have not seen him, neither does he recognize his brethren, nor his own children: for they observe your word and kept your covenant.

¹ ♦ Genesis 49 || Deuteronomy 33 ♦ Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs.

² Lit. thummim and urim.

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They will teach Jacob of your judgments, Israel of your law; they will put incense before you and whole-burnt sacrifice on your altar. Lord, bless his substance and accept the work of his hands: smite those who rise against him and hate him that they rise no more.

❖ *Simeon's revelation* Submit to Levi my children. You will gain your freedom through Judah. Do not set against these two tribes since the salvation of God will come to you from them. The Lord will raise a high cohen from Levi and a king from Judah, man of God: he will save the race of Israel and all the heathen.

❖ *Levi's revelation* The chosen temple of the Lord will be laid waste because of your impurities: you will all be carried as captives by the heathen and be in abomination to them, bearing reproach and eternal shame of being punished by the judgement of righteousness. Anyone who sees you will turn to flee from you; if it were not for our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, I would have no descendant left alive on earth.

❖ **J u d a h** יְהוּדָה hand is on the necks of your enemies. Your brothers shall confess to you, your father's sons shall bow to you. Judah my son, young lion that ascends for the prey, admirable like a lion that crouches down; who dares to provoke him? The tribe will not separate from Judah, nor the sceptre from his descendants, nations will obey to him until the final Shiloh *Pacifier* שִׁילָה comes. He attaches his donkey at the vineyard, his young donkey at a vine's plant: he washes his clothes in the wine, his cloak in the grape's blood; his eyes are red as of wine, his teeth white as of milk. || Hear Lord the voice of Judah and bring him to his people, let his hands be sufficient for him and be a help to him from his enemies.

❖ *His revelation:* My children, I am much grieved. You will be guilty of impious acts, deceived by witchcraft, idolatries, ventriloquists and omens, contrary to the royal law, running after the demons of error. You will turn your daughters into harlot singers and take part in the detestable things heathens do.

❖ **Z e b u l o n** זְבוּלֹן shall settle on the coasts of the sea; he will be a harbour for ships; his border shall reach Sidon. || Rejoice Zebulon in your going out and Issacar in your tents: they will call the people to the mountain to offer sacrifices of righteousness there; they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, of treasures hidden in the sand. | Out of Zebulon stands the rod of writing. Zebulon is a people who endanger their lives to death. Judges 5,14

❖ *His revelation:* I understand from the writing of my fathers that in the last days you will forsake the Lord. You will commit in many abominations and worship much idolatry, so your enemies will take you away captives: the heathen will oppress you who will suffer of indignity, distress, and mental anguish, and afterwards you will remember the Lord and repent, and he will bring you back again. For he is merciful and compassionate, he have no evil mean for men, he knows they are but flesh, and the spirits of lie deceive them in anything they do.

❖ **I s s a c a r** יִשְׂכָר bows down among sheep-folds, shaped like a donkey. Seeing how good is the place for rest and the land pleasant, he bends his back to the load and works as a slave. || Issacar in your tents. See Zebulon

❖ *His revelation:* My children, I know your sons will turn from being simple to become greedy obsessed in the last TIMES: they will turn from innocence to resort to trickery, they will turn their back on the Lord's orders to join with Beliar. They will cease crop growing to follow their wicked inclination, until their enemies will enslave them, and disperse them among the heathen. Instruct your children about this, and let them return fast to the Lord if they sin, for he is merciful, he will deliver them and restore them their land.

- ◊ D a n דָן shall fight for his people, Israel tribes as one, and shall judge the snake on the road, the viper on the path, that bite the horse's heel for the rider to fall. I pray God to help you. || Dan is a lion's baby, he will jump from Bashan. | Why does Dan sojourn by the ships? Judges 5.17
- ◊ *His revelation:* I have read in the book of Enoch the righteous that your prince is Satan. All spirits of fornication, of arrogance, will turn to Levi, carefully and constantly harass the footsteps of Levi's sons to make them sin against the Lord. My sons will associate with Levi in all their sins; Judah's sons will covet other men's goods and plunder like lions. You will be carried captive with them to suffer all the plagues of Egypt, all the badness of the heathen.
- ◊ G a d גָּד shall be attacked by troops, which he shall attack and circumvent. || Blessed be he that enlarges Gad, who dwells as a lion and tears the arm with the crown of the head. He provided the first part for himself because he was seated there as part of the lawgiver, and he came with the heads of the people to execute the justice of the Lord and his judgments with Israel.
- ◊ *His revelation:* Because the Lord will raise a saviour in Israel from Judah and Levi, commend your children to respect them. At the last days, I know how your children will ignore them and involve in all wickedness, corruption and oppression, before the Lord.
- ◊ A s h e r אַשְׁר shall come with rich foods and grant delights for king. || Let Asher be blessed with children and be acceptable to his brethren. Let him dip his foot in oil, for your shoes will be in iron and brass, and so your strength will be as your days. | Asher dwells at the Sea shore and stands by its bays. Judges 5.17
- ◊ *His revelation:* My children, do not be like the sodomites who did not recognize the angels of the Lord and perished. I know you will be given to your enemies because you will sin; your holy places will be destroyed and your land desolated.
- ◊ N a p h t a l i נְפָתְלִי publishes beautiful words, free like a deer. || Naphtali is satisfied with favour and filled with the blessing of the Lord in the west and the south.
- ◊ *His revelation:* As a man whose child is well raised is remembered, so a good work is in memory before God. God is dishonoured among the heathen when the one does no good, therefore he is cursed by angels and men. The Lord will hate him; he will be own by the evil and used as its instrument, and wild beast will gain control over him.
- ◊ J o s e p h יוֹסֵף is a prolific³ son with whom has multiplied a vineyard near the fountain, with branches passing over the wall. They made his life bitter and attacked him, the archers made him their target, but his arch remained firm and his arms were fortified by the hands of the Almighty of Jacob, the shepherd, builder of Israel, by your father's God who shall help you, and by the Almighty who shall bless you with blessings of Heaven above, blessings of the deep that couch beneath, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb. The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; may it be on Joseph's head as the crown of the prince's head among his brethren. || Blessed is the Lord for his land! For the precious things of Heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that couches beneath, for the precious

³ *Isaiah 11.1* - There shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a twig shall grow forth out of his roots.

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fruits brought forth by the sun, for the precious things put forth by the moon, for the chief things of the ancient mountains, for the precious things of the lasting hills, for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come on the head of Joseph, on the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, his horns like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, the thousands of Manaseh. | Of Ephraim אפרים מנשה came out those whose root is in Amalek after you Benjamin, among your peoples; out of Machir (Manaseh's son) came down governors. *Judges 5.14*

❖ *His revelation:* My children, hear the visions that I saw. Twelve deers were feeding when nine divided and scattered over the earth, so the other three. I saw a virgin born of Judah, wearing a linen robe, and from her came out a lamb faultless. On his left hand it was like a lion; all the animals assaulted him, but the lamb overcame and destroyed them, trampling them underfoot. The angels rejoiced because of him, men and the whole earth rejoiced too.

❖ Benjamin בנימין is a wolf who pulls in pieces: he divides his prey in the evening and eats a portion in the morning. || The beloved of the Lord will dwell safely by him: the Lord will cover him all day long, for he will dwell between his shoulders.

❖ *His revelation:* I gather from the words of the righteous Enoch that you will maintain meaning-less relations with women and give way to immoral practices, committing fornication as the men of Sodom. All of you will perish except a few; the Lord 's kingdom will not remain among you, he will take it away from you without delay. The temple of God will be in your portion, the last will be more glorious than the first; there the twelve tribes will gather and all the heathen together, until the Most-High sends his salvation by the visitation of an only-begotten prophet.







MOSHE

*Law s of eternity*¹

Moshe **משה** called Joshua in the presence of all Israel and said:

— I am 120 years today, I can no longer come and go. God has told me that I would not cross the Jordan. Your Lord God *Iehvah eloheiha* יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכָם will be the one who will go before you. It is he who will destroy these nations before you, so you will expel them. Joshua will be the one who will lead you as God promised. God will do the same that he did to the amorites kings, he annihilated them and their land. God gives you power to do everything required by this mandate I prescribed you. Be strong and brave. Do not fear them. Your Lord God is the one who is going with you, he will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and brave. You will be the one to bring this nation to the land that God swore to their fathers to give them.² You will be the one to partake it to them but God will be the one who will go with you and he will be before you. He will never forsake you, so do not be afraid and do not let your spirit be broken.

Moshe wrote this torah **תורה** and gave it to Levi's sons, the cohanim who bore the **ark of covenant of Iehvah aron berit Iehvah**, and to all the elders of Israel. Moshe commanded them, saying:

— At the end of each seven (7) years, at fixed time, at the feast of Sukot סוכות, after the year of Release *shanat shemitah* שָׁנַת הַשְׁמִיטָה, all Israel will come and present themselves before their Lord God in the place he will choose, and you will read this torah before all so that Israel hear it: gather the people - men, women, children, and proselytes from your settlements, that they hear it and learn to be ennobled by their Lord God, keeping care at the words of this torah. Those who do not know among their children will listen to learn and be ennobled by your Lord God, as long as you will live and occupy the land after crossing the Jordan.

— Your time is come to die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the meeting tent *ba-ohel moed* בָּאֵהֶל מוֹעֵד and I shall give him a charge.

¹ Exodus 20 & *Deuteronomy 31-32

² Genesis 15.1,13 - The word of Iehvah הָאָתָה came unto Abram in a vision, saying: Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield, thy reward shall be exceeding great. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that your seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward they shall come out with great substance. And you shall go to thy fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. But in the 4th generation they shall come hither again, for the iniquity of the amorites is not yet full.

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

Moshe

Moshe and Joshua went to present themselves in the meeting tent. God appeared in a pillar of cloud in the tent, and the pillar stood at the entrance. God said to Moshe:

- When you go and lie with your ancestors, this nation shall rise up and get lost after the strange gods of the land into which they are coming; so they will abandon me and violate the covenant that I have made with them. Then I will display anger against them and abandon them, I will hide my face from them and they will be prey. Plagued by many harms and troubles, they will say: It is because my God is no longer with me that these harms have befallen us. On that day I will utterly hide my face because of all the faults they have done in turning to strange gods.

Now write for yourselves this song and teach it to the israelites; make them memorize it, so that this song will be a witness for the israelites. For when I bring them to the land flowing with milk and honey, that I promised their ancestors, they will eat, be satisfied and live in luxury; then they will turn to strange gods and worship them, despising me and violating my covenant. When they are then plagued by many harms and troubles, this song shall testify for them like a witness since it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know their inclinations through what they are doing right now, even before I have brought them to the promised land.

Moshe wrote down this song on that day and taught it to the israelites. He gave a charge to Joshua the son of Nun that said:

- Be strong and brave strengthen your strength *azaq amats* יָמָאַת קִנְסָה since you will bring the israelites to the land I promised. I will be with you.

Moshe finished to the very end the scroll of the words of this torah, Moses then gave orders to the levites who carried the ark of God's covenant, saying:

- My brothers, take this scroll of torah and place it to the side of the ark of God, your Lord's covenant, as a witness. I am aware of your rebellious spirit and your stubbornness. Even while I am here alive with you, you are rebelling against God. What will you do after I am dead! Gather all the elders and your law enforcers and I will proclaim these words to them. I will bring Heaven and earth as witnesses for them.

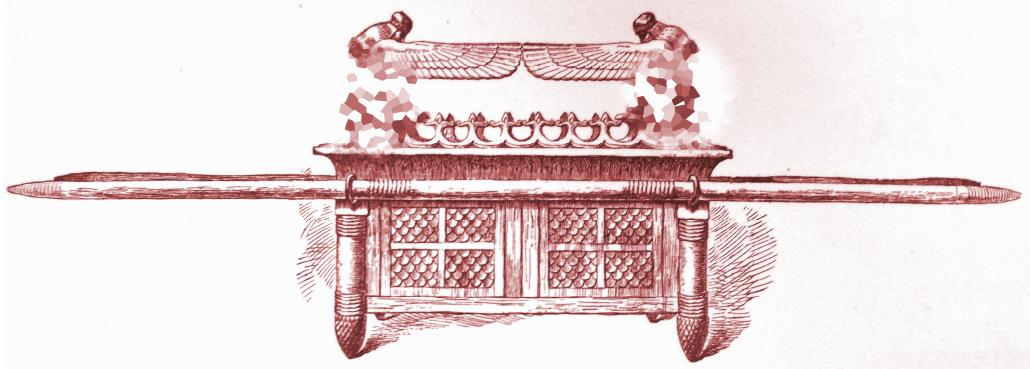
I know that after I die, you will become corrupt and turn away from the path that I have prescribed to you. You will eventually be plagued with harms, since you will have done wickedness in God's eyes, angering him with the work of your hands.



APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

THE 10 LAWS OF THE LAW OF GOD OUR FATHER

No other before me, I am Iehvah יְהוָה
No graven likeness of anything
No vain use of his name
Honor the holiness of shabat
Honor father and mother No adultery
No killing No lie
No stealing No coveting





DAVID,

The shepherd's way

Blessed is the man whose delights are in the law of Iehvah יהוה, who meditates it night and day. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings his fruit in his season, also his leaf shall not wither. Whatsoever he does shall prosper.

He walks not in ungodly counsel, he stands not in the sinners' way, he sits not in the mockers' seat. The wicked stands not in the judgment, nor the sinners in the court of justice, wherefore the wicked are blown by the wind like straw.

For Iehvah יהוה knows the way of the law and he will destroy the wicked way.



GOD'S PROMISE TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID

2Samuel 7:8-16

Now therefore prophet Nathan, so shall you say unto my servant David: Thus says Iehvah of hosts יהוה צבאות. I took you from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: And I was with you whithersoever you went, and have cut off all your enemies out of your sight, and have made you a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, where will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their

own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, and as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all your enemies. Also Iehvah יהוה tells you that he will make you a house. And when your days be fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after thee, which shall proceed out of your bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will

establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son; if he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the children of men; but my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be established for ever before you, your throne shall be established for ever.

THE COW-KEEPERS

France, 1846



On Saturday, September 19, 1846, we, Mélanie & Maximin saw a beautiful Lady. Mélanie said: I do not know if it is the Virgin or another person, I believe today that it is Mary. Here is what this lady said to me:

« If my people continue, what I say to you will arrive earlier; if it changes a little, it will be a little later. France has corrupted the universe, one day it will be punished. The faith will die in France, three quarters of France will not practice religion anymore or almost no more, the other part will practice it without really practicing it.

Then after, nations will convert, the faith will be rekindled everywhere. A great country now Protestant, in the north of Europe, will convert. By the support of this country, all the other nations of the world will convert.

Before all this arrives, great disorders will arrive to the church and everywhere. Then after, the pope will be persecuted. His successor will be someone that nobody expects. Then after, a great peace will come but it will not last long, a monster will come to disturb it. All that I tell you will arrive in the other century at the latest in year two thousand.

The time of God's wrath has arrived. Say to the people what I have said to you: I give you six (6) days to work, the seventh I reserve for myself, but yet, no one will to give it to me. The cart drivers can not swear without bringing in my Son's name.

I ask you to say these, which are the two things that make my Son's arm very heavy. If after that, they do not convert, if the face of the earth does not change, God will be avenged against the ungrateful people, slave of demon. »

Mary warned and foretold what disasters would occur in:

1846 : Famine (decay of potatoes, wheat, grapes, and walnut in France; children seized with trembling).

1858 : Unworthy priests (unfit to devote to the holy mysteries; love for money, pleasures and honor).

1864 : Lucifer is detached from hell (demonic possession of religious communities, lack of faith, persecutions).

1865 : Antichrist rise (wars in France, Italy, Spain, England). A new order of God will rise.²



*The cow-keepers, Mélanie Calvat & Maximin Giraud (14 and 10 years old)
July 3, 1851, Montagne de Baises, La Salette, France*

² From La Salette to Medjugorje.

THE GOAT-KEEPERS

Portugal, 1917



Lucia, Francisco & Jacinta were keeping their goats when an angel visit them in the year 1916.

– Do not fear. Listen to me, I am the angel of Peace. Let us say a prayer:

« My God! I believe. I adore. I hope. And I love you. I beg your pardon for those who do not believe, who do not adore, who do not hope, who do not love. »

Pray that way, for the hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.

The angel appeared another time and said:

– What do you do? Pray, you must pray. The hearts of Jesus and Mary have some projects of mercy upon you. You must continually offer prayers and sacrifices to the Most-High.

– Lucia said: How can we offer a sacrifice to God?

– The angel answered: All is possible to please the Lord: you can offer a sacrifice in reparation for the sins whereby he is offended, and prayers for the conversion of the sinners, and draw peace and happiness on your homeland. I am his guardian angel, the guardian angel of Portugal. First, accept with submission to bear the difficulties that the Lord will send you. Repeat after me:

« Most holy Trinity, Father, Son, and holy Spirit! I love you deeply. I offer you the most precious holy body, soul, & divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference, whereby he himself is offended. By the infinite merits of his heart and the heart of Mary, I ask you to convert all sinners. »

Take and drink the body and blood of Jesus Christ horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crime and comfort your God.

– Francesco: I saw the host and the blood, and I felt, I feel God in me.

May 13, 1917 • A prayer every day for the end of the war

– Mary: Do not fear, I do not want to hurt you.

– Lucia: Where are you from, madam?

– Mary: I come from Heaven.

– Lucia: But what are you doing here?

– Mary: I came to tell you to come here the 13th of each month for six (6) months at the same time. Later I will tell you who I am and what I want.

Lucia asks if she will go to Heaven. Mary replies that she with Jacinta and Francisco her two cousins will go to Heaven too, but before he will have to recite a lot of prayer. Maria a friend of her sister is in Heaven, but Amelia her other friend is in purgatory until the end of the world.

– Mary: What do you want to offer to God to hinder the pains he wants to send you: an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended, or of supplication for the conversion of the sinners?

– Lucia: Yes, we want it.

– Mary: You will have much to bear but the grace of God will be your comfort.

– The children: O most holy trinity! I adore you. My God, my God! I adore you and I love you in the

most holy sacraments.

- Mary: Recite a prayer every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.

June 13 • Take us to Heaven

After the apparition, Lucia so reported to Francisco (for he could see Mary but not hear her):

- I will tell you what she said. It's a secret. Listen. I asked our Lady to take us to Heaven with her and she said: Yes Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco will join me soon. You will remain among yours to make me known, and to make me love by all. I had so much trouble that I asked her: But then I'm going to be alone? And she said: No, my daughter. Know that I will never abandon you.

July 13 • Pray for the end of the war

More than 4000 persons from neighbourhood were present at this 13th of the month.

- Jacinta: She's there. Speak Lucia, don't you see, she is here...
- Lucia: What do you want from us?
- Mary: I want you to come here on the 13th of next month. Continue to recite your prayer every day in honor of Our-lady-of-the-rosary to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because she will help you. Sacrifice you often for sinners by saying to Jesus, especially when making a sacrifice:
« For the love of you Jesus, for the conversion of sinners, for the reparation of the sins committed against the heart of Mary. »
- Lucia: Please madam, can you tell us who you are? Can you make a miracle so that people know that you appear to us indeed?
- Mary: Keep coming here every month. In October I will tell you who I am, and I will do a miracle that everyone will see.

All a sudden a light was thrown to the ground, she opened her hands and made them see the first vision of hell.

- Lucia: Our-lady showed us a great sea of fire under the earth where were plunged demons and human souls, blackened bronze, raised in the air by the flames issuing from themselves with great clouds of smoke, in the midst of scream and groans of pain and despair. The demons were known by their terrifying likeness of unknown animals, black transparent.

Subsequent vision kept secret 27 yrs, revealed on January 1944.

- Lucia: We saw an angel with a flaming sword in his left hand which gave out flames that would set the world on fire, but died out in contact with the Splendour radiated from the right hand of Our-lady towards him. The angel, pointing the earth with his right hand, said in a loud voice: Penance, penance, penance.

We saw an immense light like, in a mirror, a man dressed in white, and other men and women (priests & religious persons) going up a stiff mountain where was a big cross made of rough-chopped trunks at the top. To reach there, the man passed through a big city half in ruins. He halted and prayed for the souls of the corpses found along his way, trembling and afflicted with painful sorrow. When he reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big cross, a group of soldiers fired bullets and arrows and killed him; in the same way died the other men and women of different ranks. Two angels beneath the two arms of the Cross, each one with a crystal bowl in his hand, collected the blood of the slain wherewith they sprinkle the souls.

- Lucia to Francisco (later): She said: You saw hell where are the souls of the sinners. To save them, God wants to establish the devotion of my heart, and a communion for restoration on the first Saturdays of each month. If you do what I tell you, the war will end soon. If we do not stop offending God, another war will start even more terrible. After she said: If we do what I ask, we will have

peace. If not 'she' will spread her mistakes around the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the church. The good ones will be martyred, the man (dressed in white) will suffer much, and entire nations will be destroyed, but my heart will triumph at the end. Russia will be converted and the man (dressed in white) will consecrate to me. A time of peace will be granted to the world.

August 13 • Many souls go to hell

The lady appeared on a three branches twig, with one foot on a branch and one foot on another.

- Mary: *Pray, pray a lot. Make sacrifices for the sinners. Many souls go to hell because they have nobody who sacrifices for them.*

The following weeks, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta used a rope tied around their belly as willing to suffer for the sinners as a sacrifice to God (also suffering from thirst, for the conversion of the sinners and to console Jesus who is sad).

September 13 • God is satisfied with your sacrifices

- Lucia: *What do you want from me?*
- Mary: *Pray Our-lady-of-the-rosary to stop the war. In October, I will come with Joseph and the baby Jesus to bring peace to the world, our Lord will appear to give his blessing, God is satisfied with your sacrifices. But do not sleep with the rope, wear it only during the day.*
- Lucia: *There is a little girl here who is deaf and dumb, will she heal one day?*
- Mary: *She will be better before a year.*
- Lucia: *I have many other requests for healing.*
- Mary: *I know. I will heal some, but others in whom the Lord has no confidence, those will not.*
- Lucia: *I have two letters to give you from a lady of Olival, who told me to offer you this bottle of perfume also.*
- Mary: *It is of no use to me in Heaven.*

October 13 • The war will end soon

More than 70000 persons came at the last 13th of the month

- Lucia: *What do you want from me?*
- Mary: *What I want is to build a chapel here in my honor. I am Our-lady-of-the-rosary. Always continue to say your prayer, pray every day, the war will end, and soon the soldiers will return to their families.*
- Lucia: *I have to ask you to save all our sick and to convert the sinners.*
- Mary: *I would do it for some, but others must correct themselves and ask forgiveness for their sins. Do not offend our Lord, for he is offended yet.*
- Lucia: *You do not want anything from me now?*
- Mary: *I do not want anything from you now.*



*The goat-keepers, Lucia dos Santos, Francisco & Jacinta Marti (10, 9, 7 years old)
October 13, 1917, Cova di Iria (pit of Leiria), Fátima, Portugal*



ISAIAH.

His glory among the heathen

I will gather all nations, of all tongues, to come see my glory. I will put a sign on them, and those who escaped I will send them to the nations of Tarshish, Pul, and Lud; I will stretch the bow to Tubal, Javan and distant isles who never heard of my fame, nor seen my glory, and they shall declare my glory among the heathen.

— They will bring all your brethren, out of all nations, as an offering to Iehvah יהוה, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, on horses, mules, swift beasts dromedaries, in chariots and litters.

Iehvah יהוה says as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel to the house of Iehvah יהוה. I will also take them for cohanim and levites, says Iehvah יהוה.

As the new Heavens and the new earth which I will make will remain before me, so your name and your seed will remain before me, says Iehvah יהוה.

It shall come to pass, says Iehvah יהוה, that from one new moon to another, from one shabat to another, all flesh will come to worship before me. When they will go, they will see the corpses of men who have transgressed against me, whose worm will not die, nor will their fire quench, being abhorrent to all flesh.



¹ Isaiah 66



ZEPHANIAH

Crossroads of death

A spirit took me and brought me up into the 5th Heaven. I saw angels who are called lords, the diadem was set upon them in the holy Spirit, the throne of each of them was sevenfold more than the light of the rising sun, and they were dwelling in the temples of salvation and singing hymns to the indescribable God.

I Zephaniah זפניה saw a soul which five thousand (5000) angels punished and guarded. They took it to the East and they brought it to the West. They beat it, giving a hundred (100) lashes each one daily. I was afraid and I cast myself on my face. The angel helped me, he said to me:

- Be strong as one who will overcome over the accuser so to come up triumphant from Sheol.
- Who are they punishing? I said after I arose.
- This is a soul found in its lawlessness when it was visited, it was taken out of its body before it attained to repenting.

Now I went with the Lord's angel from my city. When he took me up, I saw two men walking together on a road as they talked, also two women grinding together at a mill as they talked, also two upon a bed [...]. I said unto the Lord's angel.

- Then darkness and night exist not in this place?
- No darkness exists in that place where are the righteous and the saints, because they always exist in the light.

When I saw all the souls of men, as they existed in punishment, and I cried out to the Lord Almighty:

- O God who remains with the saints, have compassion on behalf of the world for the souls in this punishment.
- Come, I will show you the place of righteousness, the Lord's angel said.

He took me to Mount Seir and showed me three men as two angels walked with them rejoicing and exulting over

¹ *The Apocalypse of Zephaniah*, translated (coptic) by Wintermute, Charlesworth 1983.

them, and two other angels weeping over the three sons. I said to the angel:

- Who are they?
- These are the three sons of Joatham the cohen, who neither kept the commandment of their father, nor observed the ordinances of the Lord, he said.

These are the angels of the Lord Almighty who write all the good deeds of the righteous on their scrolls as they watch at the gate of Heaven. I take from their hands to bring that before the Lord Almighty who writes their name in the book of the living.

The angels of the accuser, who is on the earth, write down all the sins of men on their scrolls as they sit at the gate of Heaven. They tell that to the accuser and he writes them on his scroll so that he might accuse them when they come out of the world to down there.

Then I walked with the Lord's angel, before me I saw a place there, thousands of thousands, myriads of myriads of angels entered through it, the face like leopard, with long pointed tooth out their mouth like wild boars, the eyes mixed with blood, the hair loosen like women's hair, with fiery whips in their hands. I got scare and said to that angel who walked with me:

- Who are they?
- These are the servants of all creation who come to the souls of ungodly men to bring them and leave them in this place. They spend three days going around with them in the air before they bring them to cast them into their eternal punishment.
- I beseech you Lord, give them no authority to come to me...
- Do not fear, I will not let them come to you because you are pure before the Lord, the angel said. I will not let them come to you because the Lord Almighty sent me to you, because you are pure before him.

I went with the Lord's angel, and I saw gates in front of me. I beheld the bronze gates in front of me as fire was being cast forth for about fifty (50) stadia. I approached them and discovered that they were bronze gates, bronze bolts and iron bars. The angel touched them and they opened before him. I entered with him and found a beautiful city as a whole square and walked in its midst. Then the Lord's angel transformed himself beside me in that place. My mouth was shut therein.

I turned back and walked, and I saw a great Sea I thought it was a sea of water, but I discovered that it was entirely a sea of flame which casts forth much flame, whose waves burn sulphur and bitumen; when I saw they began to approach me, I thought that the Lord Almighty had come to visit me and I fell on my face before him in order that I might worship him. I was very much afraid, and I entreated him to save me from this distress. I cried out, saying:

- Lord, Elohe Adonai sabaoth! I beseech you to save me from this distress that has befallen me...

I stood up in that same instant and saw a great angel standing before me, his hair like lioness, his teeth out his mouth like a bear, his hair spread out like women, his body like the serpent that wished to swallow me. I was so scared of him that all the parts of my body were loosened and I fell on my face, unable to stand. And I prayed before the Lord Almighty:

- You will save me from this distress! You, the one who saved Israel from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; you who saved Susanna from the unjust hand of the elders; who saved the three holy men, Shadrach, Me-

shach, Abednego, from the furnace of burning fire! I beg you to save me from this distress...

When I arose, I saw a great angel standing before me, his face shining like the rays of the sun in its glory, his face perfected in its glory. He was girded with a golden girdle around his breast, his feet were like bronze melted in a fire. I rejoiced when I saw him, for I thought that the Lord Almighty had come to visit me. I fell on my face and worshiped him. He said to me:

- Take heed not to worship, I am not the Lord Almighty. I am Eremiel *Remeiel*² רָמְיַאֵל, the great angel who is over Sheol³ and the Abyss, in which all of the souls are imprisoned since the end of the Flood that came on the earth until this day.
- What is the place I came? I inquired.
- It is Sheol, he said.
- Who is the great angel whom I saw, who stands there?
- This is the one who accuses men in the presence of the Lord, he said.

I looked and saw him with a scroll in his hand, which he began to unroll it. After he had spread it out, I read it in my language and found all my sins which I had done written in it, those I had done from my youth until this day. They were all written on that scroll of mine without a false word in them: if I did not go visit a sick man or a widow, I found it written down as a fault on my scroll; if I did not visit an orphan, it was found written down as a fault on my scroll; a day which I did not fast or pray in the time of prayer, I found written down as a fault on my scroll; a day when I did not turn towards the sons of Israel, since it is a fault, I found written down on my scroll. So I threw myself on my face and prayed before the Lord Almighty:

- May your mercy reach me! May you wipe out my scroll! Because your mercy has come to be in every place, and has filled every place...

When I arose, I saw a great angel before me saying to me:

- Triumph prevails, because you have prevailed and have triumphed over the accuser. You have come up from Sheol and the Abyss, and now you will cross over the crossing place.

Again he brought another scroll written by hand and began to unroll it. I read it and found it written in my language [...].

Two pages missing [probably the good deeds of the prophet, followed by a prayer of thanksgiving; preparations for crossing].

They helped me to set me on that boat. Thousands of thousands and myriads of myriads of angels gave praise in front of me. I put on an angelic garment and I prayed together with all those angels praying. I knew their language they spoke with me.

Now moreover my sons, this is the trial, because it is necessary that the good and the evil be weighed in a balance. Then a great angel came forth having a golden trumpet in his hand, he blew it three times over my head,

² Book of Enoch 20 - These are the names of the holy angels who watch. Uriel, one of the holy angels, the angel over the world and over tartarus (abyss). Rafael, one of the holy angels, the angel of the spirits of men. Raguel, one of the holy angels, who takes vengeance on the world and on the luminaries. Michael, one of the holy angels, to wit, he that is set over the best part of mankind, over the people. Saraqael, one of the holy angels, who is set over the spirits of the children of men, whose spirits have sinned. Gabriel, one of the holy angels, who is over the Garden and the cherubim. (Gizeh greek frag.) Remeiel, one of the holy angels, over those who rise (resurrect).

³ Lit. hades.

saying:

- Be courageous as one whose triumph prevailed! As one who has prevailed, you have triumphed over the accuser, and you have escaped from Sheol and the Abyss. You have crossed over the crossing⁴ places for your name is written in the book of the living.

I wanted to embrace him, but unable because great is the glory of the great angel. He ran to all the righteous ones named Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Enoch, Elijah, David, and spoke with them, speaking one with another as friend to friend.

The great angel with the golden trumpet in his hand came to me, and when he blew it up unto Heaven, Heaven opened from where the sun rises to where it sets, from the north to the south. I saw the sea *of fire* which I saw at the bottom of Sheol, its waves coming up to the clouds; all the souls were sinking in it.

- Who are these? I said, seeing some with their hands bound to the neck, hands and feet being chained.
- These are the ones who were bribed, having been given gold and silver until the souls of men were led astray, he said to me.
- Who are these? I said seeing others covered with mats of fire.
- These are the ones who give money at interest and receive interest for interest.

I marvelled at seeing all these works of God.

- Who are these? I said, seeing some blind ones crying out.
- These⁵ heard the word of God but they were not perfected in the work which they heard.
- Then have they not repentance here?
- Yes, he said.
- How long? I said.
- Until the day when the Lord will judge, he said.
- Then there is hair and body in this place? I said, seeing others with their hair on them.
- Yes, the Lord gives body and hair to them as he desires.

And I also saw multitudes, he brought them who called out, as they looked at all of the torments, praying before the Lord Almighty:

- We pray to you on account of those who are in all these torments so that you might have mercy on all of them.

When I saw them, I said to the angel who spoke with me:

- Who are these?

⁴ *Crossing*: pass in an opposite or different direction; (of a person) make the sign of the cross in front of one's chest as a sign of reverence, to invoke divine protection.

⁵ *Lit.* catechumens.

- These who beseech the Lord are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Daily at a certain hour, they come with the great angel who makes a trumpet sound to Heaven, and another makes sound on the earth; all the righteous hear the sound and come running to pray the Lord Almighty daily on behalf of these who are in all these torments.

Again the great angel came with the golden trumpet in his hand blowing over the earth. That was heard from where the sun rises to where it sets, from the South to the North. He blows up again to Heaven and its sound is heard.

— Lord, why did you not leave me not until I saw them all? I said.

- I have not authority to show them to you until the Lord Almighty rises to destroy Heavens and earth in his wrath, he said to me. All flesh will see and be disturbed, and they will all cry out. What is ascribed to you, we will give to you on the day of the Lord. Who will stand in his presence when he will raise the earth in his wrath? Every tree that grows on earth will be root out and fall, every high tower and the birds that fly will fall [...].



VOICES FROM PURGATORY

*Tehvah kills and makes alive
he brings down to Sheol and brings up.¹*



MARIA SIMMA [1915–2004]²

Maria Simma was an austrian woman, her mother and father were peasant farmers and humble catholics who possessed a simple but very devout faith in God. At age 7, Maria began felt a strong call to help others, either through prayer and sacrifice in the religious life. Maria was visited by the souls in Purgatory much of her life; as she devoted to the holy souls from childhood, she was encouraged by both her parish priest and her bishop. Maria died in 2004 at the age of 89.

The first time she was visited by a soul in Purgatory, it was in 1940, around 3 o'clock in the morning, she heard someone coming into her bedroom. This woke her up and looked to see who could have walked into her bedroom. She saw a complete stranger who walked back and forth slowly severely.³ As he continued to walk impatiently around the bedroom after she asked to go away, it was as if he hadn't heard. So she jumped out of the bed and tried to grab him, but she grasped only air. There was nothing there; she wondered how she could see this man she couldn't grab. She rose again to stop him walking around, and again she grasped only emptiness. The next day, after mass, she told her spiritual director about this and he told her that she shouldn't ask who he is, but what he wants from her. The following night, when the same man returned, she asked him what he want and he replied:

– Have three masses celebrated for me and I will be delivered.

She understood that he was a soul in Purgatory. Her spiritual director confirmed this and advised her to never turn away from the souls in pain, but to accept with heart whatever they asked.

She had visits for several years; in most cases they asked that masses be celebrated, to say the rosary, and the stations of the cross. Maria said:

« Purgatory is a delay imposed by our impurity before God, a wound of love which causes intense suffering of waiting for love. This burning is precisely this longing which cleanses us of whatever is still impure in us which delay us to be united to God. Mary comes often to console them and to tell them they have done many good things to encourage them; particularly on Christmas day, all saints day, Good Friday, the feast of the Assumption, and the Ascension of Jesus. The sins which most lead to Purgatory are the sins against charity, against the love of one's neighbor, hardness of heart, hostility, slandering, calumny. Saying calumny and wicked things are among the worst blemishes which require longer purification. Other sins against charity are the rejection of people we do not like, our refusals to make peace, our refusals to forgive, and all the bitterness store inside. »

¹ 1 Samuel 2.6

² The Amazing Secret of the Souls in Purgatory, Maria Simma 1915–2004

³ Psalms 116.3. The ropes of death were wrapped around me and the torments of Sheol overcame me, I encountered trouble and sorrow.

Maria mentioned this lady who went in the most terrible Purgatory after she died, with the most atrocious sufferings: she explained to Maria that between her and her girl friend arose a great enmity she had maintained for years, up to her deathbed, even though her friend had asked for peace many times, but she refused to reconcile. Maria said:

« The greatest chance of going straight to Heaven is those who have a good heart towards everyone. Love covers a multitude of sins. »

S A I N T P I O O F P I E T R E L C I N A [1887-1968]⁴

One night, fratre Pio was sitting alone in a room praying, an old man came in and sat by his side. He looked at him but could not understand how he had entered the monastery at this time. He asked who he was and what he want. And he answered:

« Fratre Pio, I am Pietro di Mauro, named Precoco. I died in this monastery on September 18, 1908, in room 4. I am still in Purgatory, I need a mass to free my soul. God gave me permission to come and see you, and ask for prayer. »

After listening, he said: Be assured that I will celebrate a mass tomorrow for your release.⁵ One day, one of the monks saw fratre Pio suddenly leave the table and start talking, as if he was chatting with someone. The monks thought that fratre Pio had gone mad, and asked him whom he was talking to:

« Do not worry, I was talking to some souls going from Purgatory to Heaven, who stopped here to thank me because I remembered them during my mass this morning. Many souls from the dead (in Purgatory) climb this mountain to come hear my masses, and seek my prayer. To avoid Purgatory, one must accept all that comes from God's hand. Offer everything to him with love and thanks will allow us to go from our deathbed to the Garden. »



⁴ *The Wonder Worker*, saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

⁵ *Sacrifice of reconciliation for the dead: 2 Maccabees 12.38* - Judas gathered his host, and came into the city of Odollam, and when the seventh day came, they purified themselves, as the custom was, and kept the shabat in the same place. And upon the day following, as the use had been, Judas and his company came to take up the bodies of them that were slain, and to bury them with their kinsmen in their fathers' graves. Now under the coats of every one that was slain, they found things consecrated to the idols of the jannites, forbidden to the jews by the law. Then every man saw that this was the cause wherefore they were slain. All men therefore praising the Lord, righteous judge, who had opened the things that were hid, betook themselves unto prayer, and besought him that the sin committed might wholly be put out of remembrance. Besides, that noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves from sin, forasmuch as they saw before their eyes the things that came to pass for the sins of those that were slain. And when he had made a gathering throughout the company to the sum of 2000 drachms of silver, he sent it to Jerusalem to offer a sin offering, doing therein very well and honestly, in that he was mindful of the resurrection: for if he had not hoped that they that were slain should have risen again, it had been superfluous and vain to pray for the dead. And also in that he perceived that there was great favour laid up for those that died godly, it was a holy and good thought. Whereupon he made a sacrifice of reconciliation for the dead that they might be delivered from sin.



THE ESSENE,

Revelation

The angel of the air will bring him and all eyes will see him: indeed the brotherhood of *Heavens* and all the vast brotherhood of the earth will raise their voice as one singing because of him.

— I am the alef and tav, the first and the last אָנָּי רָאשׁוֹן וָאַתְ-אַחֲרָנוֹם *ani richon vehet-aharonim*, of what was, what is, and what comes, the voice said to me. *Isaiah 41:4*

I turned to the voice that filled the air as rushing water and saw seven golden candles. I saw a son of man clothed in white as snow was in the midst of their blazing light and seven stars in his hands. Whilst he spoke, his face was streaming burning golden light as thousand suns.

— Do not fear, he said. I am the first and last, the beginning and end. Write what you saw:

- the things that are and will come after;
- the mystery of the seven stars that filled my hands;
- the seven golden candles blazing with eternal light.

The seven stars are the heavenly angels of the Father.

The seven candles are the earthly angels of the Mother.²

The Spirit in man is the flame that streams between the starlight and the glowing candle, a bridge of holy light between Heaven and earth.

He who says this holds the seven stars in his hands and walks in the flames of the seven golden candles. He that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit said. He who overcame I will allow to eat from the Tree of life in the midst of the Garden of God.

¹ *The Book of Revelation of the Essene*, transl. (aramaic) Szekely 1923

² *Gospel of Thomas* #101 - My mother is the truth who gave me life.

After that I saw a door open in Heaven and a voice sounded from all sides as a trumpet said to me:

- Come here. I will show you what must be hereafter.

Immediately in spirit I was at the doorstep of door and entered in, there was a blazing sea of light and a throne in the center, a rainbow as emerald around it. I saw someone with the face hidden, sat on the throne, surrounded by thirteen seats and thirteen elders seated and clothed in white raiment, whose faces were hidden by clouds of light.

A sea of glass as crystal was in front of the throne, reflecting all the mountains and the valleys with all the creatures that live on the earth. Seven stars of Heaven of shining fire of the heavenly Father were in front of the throne; and seven lamps of fire were burning of the earthly Mother. The thirteen elders bowed down before the splendour of the one with the hidden face sat on the throne: rivers of light were flowing from their hands towards each other, and they shouted:

- Holy holy holy! Lord God almighty! Who was, who is, and who is to come. Lord, you are worthy to receive the glorious honor of the powers for having created all things!

I saw a book on the right of the one on the throne, written in and out, and sealed of seven seals. I wept for being unable to open the book to read what was written. One of the elders said to me:

- Do not weep. Take the book with your hand.

Once I touched the book with my hands, the cover open and I saw with my eyes the secret of the seven seals on the golden pages. Surrounding the throne, I saw ten thousand times ten thousand, thousands of thousands angels and heard their voice, all together saying in a voice:

- To the one who reveals the secret of secrets, to him be all glory for the wisdom, the strength, and the power, forever and ever.

Swirls of golden light flowed out between my hands to the hands of the thirteen elders in a bridge of fire, to the feet of the one with the hidden face on the throne.

THE SEVEN SEALS

- When I opened the 1st seal, I saw the air's angel kneel to impart the **winds of wisdom** to man. He breathed in while the breath of life was flowing from his lips on the earth. Once he breathed out, the Heaven became dark, the sweet air was putrid, and clouds of evil smoke were hanging over the entire surface of the earth. I turned my face in shame.
- When I opened the 2nd seal, I saw the water's angel kneel to impart the **sea of love** to man. He entered the clear shining waters while the water of life was flowing from his lips on the earth. Once he touched the water, the clear streams were dark and the crystal waters became thick as mud; the fish lay gasping in the dirty blackness and all the creatures died of thirst. I turned my face in shame.
- When I opened the 3rd seal, I saw the sun's angel kneel to impart the **fires of power** to man. The sun's strength entered man's heart whilst the light of life was flowing from his lips on the earth. Once he took the power, he made a false sun of it and spread the fires of destruction; burning forests, throwing trash in green valleys, leaving his brothers' burned bones. I turned away in shame.

- When I opened the 4th seal, I saw the joy's angel kneel to impart the **song of peace** to man. The joy of peace flowed in man's soul as music while the sound of life was flowing from his lips on the earth. He heard but sadness and turned harshly into discord and raised his sword to shut off the singers' leads. I turned my face in shame.
- When I opened the 5th seal, I saw the life's angel kneel to impart the **gift of creation** to man. While the blessed covenant between God and man was flowing from his lips on the earth, man created an iron hook in the shape of a snake and reaped the harvest of starvation and death. I turned my face in shame.
- When I opened the 6th seal, I saw the earth's angel kneel to impart the **secret of eternity** to man. He was told to open his eyes to see the Tree of life's secret in the endless Sea while the river of eternal life was flowing from his lips upon earth. But man raised his hand and shut off his own eyes and said: There is no eternity. I turned my face in shame.
- When I opened the 7th seal, I saw the earthly Mother's angel bring to man a **message of blazing light** from the heavenly Father's throne. As this message was only for man's ear, he who walks between Heaven and earth whispered the message of light in man's ear. But he did not listen. I did not turn my face in shame, lo, I tended my hand to the angel's wings and turned my voice to Heaven saying:

— Tell me the message and I would eat of the fruit of the Tree of life that grows in the Sea of eternity.

The angel looked at me with great sadness and it was silence in Heaven. Then I heard a voice which sounded like a trumpet, saying:

— Man! Can you see the evil you did when you turned your face away from the throne of God and you did not use the gifts of the seven angels of the earthly Mother and the seven angels of the heavenly Father?

A terrible pain seized me as I felt within me the souls of those who have been blinded by their own flesh to see only their desire.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

I saw the seven angels who stand before God to who were given seven trumpets. Another angel came and stood at the golden altar with a golden censer; to him was given much incense as for all the angels' prayers, to be offered on the altar in front of the throne.

Out of this angel's hand, while the scent of the incense ascended before God, this angel filled the golden censer with the fire from the golden altar and cast it on earth. There were voices of thunder, earthquakes and lightnings; then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound.

- At the 1st angel's sound, hails mixed with blood *fire* were cast on earth. The green forests and the trees were burnt and all the green grass reduced to ashes.
- At the 2nd angel's sound, a great burning mountain was cast in the Sea, and blood raised as steam from the earth.
- At the 4th angel's sound, there was a great earthquake, the sun became black and the moon became as blood.
- At the 5th angel's sound, the stars of Heaven fell on the earth as figs shaken from a fig-tree by a mighty wind.

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

- At the 6th angel's sound, the Heavens departed together as a scroll rolled, and the whole earth was without a tree, neither flower nor grass leaf. My feet sank in the soft mud, thick with blood stretching as far as the eye can see. All over on the earth was silence.
- At the 7th angel's sound, I saw coming from Heaven a mighty angelic being clothed in cloud with a rainbow on his head, his face was as it were the sun and his legs were pillars of fire, having an open book in his hand. He placed his right foot on Sea and his left on earth.
- Man! Do you want this vision to happen? He cried aloud, in a voice marvellous to hear.
- Know that I would do anything for these terrible things not to happen, I answered.
- By turning astray from the angels of the heavenly Father and the earthly Mother, man commits himself by his own mind with these powers of destruction which involve its own destruction.
- Is there no hope then, bright angel?
- There is always hope for you, for whom Heaven and earth were created, he answered while a blazing light flowed from his hands as a river.

THE BOOK OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The angel who stood on Sea and earth lifted his hand to Heaven and swore by him who lives forever:

- By he who creates Heaven and all that are therein, the earth and all that are therein, the Sea and all that are therein, there should be no more time in the days of the 7th angel's sound: when he will begin to sound, the mystery of God will be revealed to those who will eat from the Tree of life that stands forever in the Sea of eternity.
- Take the book in the hand of the angel who stands on Sea and on earth, said the voice again.

So I went and said to the angel:

- Give me the book, for I would eat from the Tree of life that stands in the midst of the Sea of eternity.

As the angel gave the book to me, I opened it, and read what had always been, what was now, and what would come. I saw the great destruction³ which will overcome the earth, the destruction which will sink all her⁴ people in oceans of blood *fire*.

I also saw the endless forgiveness of the Almighty, the eternity of mankind, the souls of men as blank pages in the book, prepared for a new song to be inscribed forever. I lifted up my face to the seven angels of earthly Mother and the seven angels of heavenly Father, and⁵ I uttered a hymn of thanksgiving:

- I thank you heavenly Father to have me placed at a source of running water! Living spring in a land of dryness! Wonderful water of the eternal Garden of the Tree of life! Mystery of mysteries, of growing branches from the eternal Plant, whose roots bath in the flow of the eternal Source of life from the heavenly Father! Whose fruits are guarded day and night by the angels, and in every way enlightened by the flames of the

³ *Lit. holocaust* (i.e. destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially caused by fire).

⁴ *Her people*: people of destruction.

⁵ *Text add.* I felt my feet touching the holy brow of the Earthly Mother, and my fingers touching the holy feet of the Heavenly Father.

eternal light.

Again the voice spoke, again my eyes were drawn away from the splendours of the realm of light:

— Listen O man! You may walk on the right path by walking in the presence of the angels. You may sing on the earthly Mother by day and on the heavenly Father by night, and your journey being through the golden stream of the Law. But would you leave your brothers plunge through the gaping abyss of blood, as the painful earth ruined trembles and groans under her chains of stone? Can you drink from the cup of eternal Life while your brothers die of thirst?

My heart was filled with compassion. Again my eyes withdrew from the Splendour of the kingdom of light, I looked and lo, a great wonder appeared in Heaven: a woman clothed by the sun, the moon at her feet, a crown of seven stars on her head: I knew she was the source of running waters and mother of forests. As I was standing by the seashore,⁶ I saw a beast coming out of the Sea,⁷ the body covered with smoky black stone, a severe stinking breath coming out of its nose.

When it came out the Sea, the waters turned into a mud's pit, the woman clothed by the sun offered her arms to the beast and the beast drew near and embraced her. Lo, its arms of rock crushed and broke her back, her skin of pearl dried by its stinking breath, and she sank in the mud's pit with tears of blood. From the beast's mouth flowed armies of men who hit with terrible anger: they are fighting each other with swords, cutting their own limbs, pulling out their own eyes, till they fell screaming in agony of pain into the mud's pit.

When I stepped on the border of the pit to stretch my hand down, I could see the spinning whirlpool of blood and men trapped in there as flies in a web. I shouted aloud:

— Brothers, take my hand, drop your swords! Forsake these profanations of she who has given your birth *of flesh*, and he who has given you your inheritance *of evil* through your days of buying and selling,⁸ of hunting and killing! He who leads in captivity will go into captivity, he who kills by the sword will be killed by the sword.

The merchants of the earth⁹ will weep and mourn. No man would buy any more their merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, scarlet or purple dyes silk, marble, beasts, sheep, horses, chariots, slaves, and men's souls: all these things to sell and buy are buried in a sea of blood *fire* because you turned away from your Father and Mother to worship the beast who built a garden of stone.

Take my hand my brothers, drop your swords!

When your fingers joined *in prayer*, I saw in the distance a great city shining white on the far horizon, glowing alabaster. There were voices of thunders and lightnings, there was a great earthquake, forceful and huge, as it has never been since men are on earth. The great city was split in three parts¹⁰ and the cities of the nations fell.

⁶ Near the water, baptizing for repentance, and journeying for the gospel (see *The Gospels of Thomas, with the acts of the apostles in Asia*).

⁷ *The Testament of Solomon* 118, Conybeare 1898, tell us that a demon was caught in a skin-bag and brought into the first Temple, where it is utilized to raise into its place the headstone of the corner which the workmen had abandoned because of its weight.

⁸ *Sefer of Jesus* 61 - He who would live well should take, for example, the 'merchant' who lock up his shop and guard it day and night with great diligence because he intend to make a profit by selling again the things which he bought. If he perceives that he will lose thereby, he will not sell, not even to his own brother. So you should do. In truth your soul is a 'merchant' and the body is the shop: what it receives from outside is bought through the senses and sold by it, and the money is love. See that with your love, do not sell, nor buy, the smallest thought by which you can not profit: let thought, speech, and work, be all for love of God, so you shall find safety in that day.

⁹ *Jeremiah* 7.11 - This house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers. | *Matthew* 21.13, *Mark* 11.17, *Luke* 19.46 - My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer: but you have made it a den of thieves; *John* 2.16 - Make not my Father's house a house of merchandise. | *Gospel of Thomas* 64 - Merchants and buyers do not access to the places of my Father.

¹⁰ *Ezekiel* 5.1 - Son of man, take a sharp knife, a barber's razor, and pass it on your head and your beard; then take balances to weight

The great city came back into memory before God to give her the cup of his fierce wrath. Every island fled away, the mountains were not found, a great hail storm of Heaven fell on men, each about a talent weight.

A mighty angel took a great stone as a grindstone, and threw it into the Sea saying:

- Your merchants, the great men of the earth, deceived all nations by there sorceries, the blood of the prophets, of the saints, and all those who were slain on earth is found in her, so the great city will be thrown down with violence and not be found anymore: the voice of harpists' musicians, pipers' singers and trumpeter will not be heard in you anymore; the craftsmen of whatever craft will not be found in you anymore; the sound of grindstone will not be heard in you anymore; the candle's light will not shine in you anymore; the voice of the bride and bridegroom will not be heard in you anymore!

My brothers held my hand and struggled to get out of the mud. While they stood in confusion at the sea's sand, the skies opened and the rain soaked their nakedness. A voice was heard from Heaven as the voices of many waters, as of the great thunder, as of the harpists playing their harps, and I heard the new song they were singing before the Throne. I saw another angel was flying in the midst of Heaven, who has the songs of the day and night, and the eternal Gospel, to be announced to those who dwell on the earth, to those who climbed out of the mud's pit and stood naked, being soaked by the rain before the Throne. This angel shouted:

- Fear God and give glory to him! Worship him who makes Heaven and earth, the Sea, and the fountains of waters, for the hour of his judgement has come.

At the opening of Heaven, I saw a white horse called true faith, and the one who sits on it judges with righteousness. His eyes were as a flame of fire, with many crowns on his head; he was clothed of blazing light, his feet uncovered. His name is called the word of God and the holy Brotherhood follow him on white horses, clothed in white and clean fine linen: they entered the boundless Garden of eternity in whose midst stood the Tree of life.

Before them, naked multitudes whom the rain had soaked, came trembling to receive their judgement since their sins were many: for they had defiled the earth, yea, they had destroyed the creatures of the land and of the water, poisoned the ground, defiled the air, and buried alive the Mother¹¹ who gave them birth. But I saw not what befell them for my vision changed.

I saw a new Heaven and a new earth: for the first Heaven and the first earth passed away and there was no more. The holy City of the Brotherhood of God came down from Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a great voice from Heaven, saying:

- Lo, the mountain of the Lord's House is established at the top of the mountains, exalted above the hills, and all people shall flow to it saying: *Let us come and go to the mountain of the Lord's House, and God will teach us of his ways and we will walk in his paths!* For the law come out of the holy Brotherhood. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men: he will dwell with them and they will be his people, God

the hair and divide *in three*. You will burn with fire a 3rd part in the midst of the city when the days of the siege are fulfilled; you will take a 3rd part and smite it with a knife; a 3rd part you will scatter in the wind and I will draw a sword after them - you will also take thereof a few and bind them in your shirts and some of them to cast into the fire, burning them in the fire; from there a fire will come into all the house of Israel. Thus said the Lord **¶¶¶**: This Jerusalem that I have set in the midst of the nations in countries around her, she have changed my judgments and my statutes into wickedness, more than the nations in the countries around her, since they have refused my judgments and my sta-tutes, and have not walked in them. Therefore, thus said the Lord **¶¶¶**: Because you multiplied more than the nations around you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither kept my judgments, nor done according to the judgments, more than the nations around you; therefore thus said the Lord **¶¶¶**: Behold, even I am against you; I will execute judgments in the midst of you in the sight of the nations.

¹¹ *Gospel of Thomas* #101 - For my mother is the truth who gave me life.

himself will be with them and be their God. There will be no more death or sorrow, no crying, neither pain, for God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. The former things have all passed away: the warriors will beat their swords into plough and their spears into hooks, nation will not use a weapon against nation, neither shall they learn war no more, for the former things have passed away.

Again he said:

— Behold, I make all things new. I am the aleph and the tav, the beginning and the end. I will give the Water of life to him who thirsts to drink freely: he who overcomes will inherit all things, I will be his God and he will be my son.

But the worried, the unbelievers, the abominable murderers, and all the liars, will dig their own grave and burn with brimstone on fire.

Again my vision changed, and I heard the voices of the holy Brotherhood rose in a song:

— Come and let us walk in the light of the law.

I saw the holy City and the brothers flowing to it. The city had no need of the sun, neither the moon, to shine on, for the glory of God lightens it. I saw the pure river of life's water, clear as crystal, proceeding from the Throne of God; in the midst of the river stands the Tree of life which bears fourteen kinds of fruits,¹² and yields its fruit to those who wish to eat it, whose leaves are to healing the nations. There shall be no night here, they need neither candle, nor sun light, for the Lord gives them light and they will reign forever and ever.

I have reached the inner vision. I have heard your marvellous secret through your Spirit in me, and your mystic insight has caused knowledge to spring in me. Powerful fountain pouring living waters! Flood of love embracing all wisdom like the Splendour of eternal light!



¹² *The Book of Enoch* 3 - I observed and saw how all the trees seem as though they had withered, and shed all their leaves, except fourteen trees which do not lose their foliage but retain the old foliage from two to three years until the new comes.

He who overcomes

Will be my son and I will be his God

Will receive authority over the nations

Will be clothed in white garments

Will be a pillar in the Temple of my God

Will be granted to sit on my Throne with me

Will not be hurt by the second death

Will eat of the Tree of life

*The word of God abides in him: he will conquer
the accuser of our brethren by the blood of the lamb,
by the word of his testimony, not loving his life
even to death.*





CEPHAS PETER,¹

Sons of perdition

The lord Jesus then said we should go to the mountain to pray. When we, the twelve disciples, went with him, we besought him to show us one of our righteous brethren departed from the world, to see what manner of form they are, so that to take courage and give courage to those who should hear us.

— Many divergent prophets² *nabi ha-lim* נבי חלום who teaches falsehoods and brings perdition will become sons of perdition.³ God Iehvah יהוה will judge the sons of iniquity, but he will come to my faithful ones, those who are afflicted with hunger and thirst, their souls in trial in this life.

As we were praying, two men suddenly appeared standing before the lord, but we were unable to look because the ray of their face was as of the sun, their raiment shining as never seen the like: no mouth is able to declare, nor conceive the beautiful glory wherewith they were clothed. We were astonished at their bodies whiter than snow, redder than roses, whose redness is mingled with the whiteness,⁴ their curling and flowery hair fell about their shoulders as a garland of various flowers and nard, alike a rainbow in the air. I drew near to the lord and said:

- Who are these?
- These are your righteous brethren who you desire to see, he said.
- Where are all the righteous? What sort of world they are into to possess such a glory?

¹ *Apocalypse of Peter*, translated (coptic-geez) by James 1924

² *Deuteronomy* 13.2 - Prophet of dreams. *Sefer of Jesus* 144 - Verily I say unto you, all the saints and prophets of God have been pharisees [ascetic, *pharos* פָּרֹס], not in name as you are but very indeed: they sought their creator God in all their acts, they forsook cities and their own goods for love of God, selling these, and giving to the poor for love of God.

³ *Perdition*: state of eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and impenitent person passes after death. *Jeremiah* 5.26 - For among my people were found wicked men: they lay in wait as he that sets snares; they set a trap of perdition to catch men.

⁴ *Book of Enoch* 106 - After some days my son Methuselah took a wife for his son Lamech and she became pregnant by him and bore a son. His body was white as snow and red as a blooming rose; the hair of his head and his long locks were white as wool; and his eyes beautiful. When he opened his eyes, he lighted up the whole house like the sun, and the whole house was very full of light. When he was taken from the hand of the midwife, he opened his mouth and conversed with the Lord of righteousness. His father Lamech was afraid of him and fled, and came to his father Methuselah. He said to him: I have begotten a strange son: he is not like man, but resembles the children of the angels of Heaven; his nature is different, he is not like us; and his eyes are as the rays of the sun, his countenance is glorious.

The lord showed me a very great region out of this world, of exceeding bright light, illuminating with sunny beams, whose earth is full of plants and spices, that bears blessed fruit and blooms of itself with fair and incorruptible flowers whose perfume came to us. The inhabitants of that land are clothed with the raiment of the shining angels, their raiment and their land are alike and angels run around them. The glory of those who dwell there is equal to all, they praise the Lord God with one voice and rejoice in that Land.

— This is the place of the righteous men, your elders, the lord said to us.

Opposite of that place, I saw another one, a place of punishment extremely dirty and unpleasant, where the punished and the angels⁵ who punish them had dark garment alike to the air of the place.

There is a great lake of entirely flaming mud wherein are the men who dismissed uprightness, with angels assigned to torment them. Some of those who had blasphemed the means of uprightness are suspended there by their tongues, underneath them flaming fire is laid to torment them.

The women hanged by their hair over this mud are these who made themselves beautiful for adultery, and the men hanged by their feet have joined them in this adultery, whose heads are hidden in the mud and saying:

— We did not believe we would come to this place...

I saw the murderers, both with those who agreed, being threw in a narrow place filled with bad creepy things and dark clouds of worms set on them, as to be beaten by beasts, thus turning in this torment while the murdered souls stand looking at the murderers' torment, saying:

— Your judgement is right O God!

At that awkward place, in another narrow place, I saw as a lake wherein those in torment flow along with stink wastes, women sit in this fluid up to the neck, and nearby many children unborn in due time sat crying and hit the women's eyes by rays of fire; these have disrupted their pregnancy born out of matrimony.

Others men and women half-burned thrown in the dark place, are lashed by wicked spirits, and their entrails devoured by restless worms; these have persecuted the righteous and accused them.

Nigh to them again, men and women gnawing⁶ their lips are tormented by means of the fire-heated iron placed on their eyes; these have blasphemed by speaking nastily against the upright way.

Nearby to them, yet others men and women gnawing their tongues by means of a flaming fire in their mouths; these are the false witnesses.

In another place, men and women in dirty rags tormented by fire-heated stone sharper than peak swords rolling on them; these have trust in their riches, merciless towards the orphans and the widows by neglecting the commands of God.

In another, men and women standing in a great lake filled of stinky fluid and blood *fire* boiling mud, up to their knees; these have required interest over interest on the money lent.

And in another, men and women tormented as to be cast down from a high rock into a precipice, again and again without rest, forced to go up by them who are assigned over them; these have defiled their body by beha-

⁵ Book of Enoch 66 - After that he showed me (Noah) the angels of punishment who are prepared to come, and let loose all the powers of the waters which are beneath in the Earth in order to bring judgment and destruction, on all who live and dwell on the Earth.

⁶ gnawing: persistently worrying or distressing.

APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

ving as women, together with these women who slept in the manner of man and wife.

Beside that rock was a place filled of great fire wherein men stand; these have done handmade images between them in the stead⁷ of God. [Women scourge themselves with chains before those idols of deceit, and near them other men and women burning with these mad after idols.]

Beside them, other men and women smite restlessly one another with a rod of fire, in unceasingly torment, and yet others men and women beside them burn round as roasted in a pan; these have forsaken the paths of God.



THE APOSTLES

Isaiah 6:1

The Spirit of the Lord Iehvah יהוה is upon me because Iehvah יהוה anoints me to preach good words to the meek, He sends me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and to open prison to the bound; to make known the year of grace of Iehvah יהוה, and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all that mourn, the chosen who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the raiment of praise instead of a spirit of heaviness that they might be called trees of righteousness, planting of Iehvah יהוה that He be glorified. They will build on old wastes and raise the previous desolations: they shall repair the waste cities from the desolations of many generations. Strangers will stand to feed your flocks and the sons of the heathen will be your ploughmen and your vinedressers, for you shall be named priest cohen of Iehvah יהוה called to the service of our God מושרטי אללה ננו. You shall eat the riches

of the heathen and revel yourself in their glory; you shall have double against your shame, they shall rejoice in their lot against confusion and therefore possess the double in their Land: everlasting joy will be for them. For I Iehvah יהוה hate the burnt offering from robbery and love what is right: I will direct their work into truth and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their seed shall be known among the heathen, their offspring among the peoples; all that see them shall know that they are the seed which Iehvah יהוה have blessed. I will greatly rejoice in Iehvah יהוה, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for He have clothed me with the clothes of salvation, He have covered me with the raiment of righteousness as a bridegroom decks with ornaments, as a bride adorns with jewels. As the earth produces her bud, as the garden induces the seed that are sown in it to spring, so the Lord Iehvah יהוה will produce righteousness and praises to spring before all the nations.

⁷ In the stead: place or role that someone or something should have or fill (used in referring to a substitute).



JOHN.

Mysteries revealed

These are the mysteries of John the apostle, holy virgin, which he learned in Heaven in God's peace. When the saviour rose from the dead, he came to the Mount of Olives and sent clouds *ab בְּ*¹ where the apostles were to all the countries, to gather them in the saviour's presence on the Mount of Olives.

And John said to the saviour:

- My lord, you said to me: You have found grace before me, you are my beloved. Therefore my Lord, I wish you take me to Heaven and show me all, so that I may know.
- John! Enquire fully of me, and on my part I will hide nothing from you, the saviour answered him. Rise up, let us pray to my blessed Father and he will hear us.

The saviour and the apostles rose up, he prayed a long blessed prayer, and when he had given the amen, the Heavens moved at one side and the other, and opened one beyond the other to the 7th Heaven. Lo the whole place shone with bright light by the coming from Heaven of a great cherub, with flashing lights coming from him, and whose body was entirely covered of eyes.²

The apostles got scared to death and fell on the earth. The saviour took their hands to raise them, and removed all fear from them, strengthening their hearts for them.

- Master, said John, explain to me the command of the exceedingly terrible cherub.
- Listen to me, my beloved *didi* דָּדִי John, I will show you everything, said the saviour. The words of the Father are hidden within the cherub *kerub* כֶּרֶב you see, since their beginning till their fulfilment. Now I will make him come to you and explain everything.

The saviour turned to the cherub and said to him:

- I tell you to take my beloved John into Heaven and explain him every request he will ask you.

¹ *Mysteries of st John the divine*, Budge 1913

² *The Book of the Bee* 5, by Solomon of Bassorah *al-Basrah*, transl. (syriac) Budge 1886 - As concerning 'full of eyes' which apply to the cherubim, Gabriel is at their head, the eyes indicate the mysteries of the divine revelation.

Straightway the cherub lifted John onto his wing of light and bore him to Heaven. Arrived at the first gate, the gatekeepers opened the gate with fear and compliance to the cherub. I John saw great mysteries in the 1st Heaven.

TWELVE THRONES

Within the great gate, I saw twelve men seated on twelve thrones of great glorious dignity, and I said to the cherub:

- My lord, who are these who are seated in such majestic dignity?
- Do you see these twelve men, these are the twelve rulers of the worlds of light, said the cherub. Each of them rules one year *month*³ at a time, with Michael who orders their operations so that the earth brings fruits all the same.
- Sometimes come a year of famine in one place or another...
- I have shown you what you asked, said the cherub.
- My lord, come a year when water is scarce even so there is abundance, and then come a year when water is plentiful even so there is famine...
- Know that the water is under the Father's feet: the water rises when the Father raises His feet. If man sins before God at the same time he makes the water rise, he uses to make the fruit of the earth small, because of men's sin. Now, if men keep themselves from committing sin at the time God is about to grant a little abundance, the Father uses to bless the earth to bear fruits, and abundance comes by Michael's prayer. If only men know the time of Michael's prayer when the waters come on earth, they would not commit sin ever. Michael takes with him twelve times ten thousand (10,000) angels to come in the presence of the Father, and throw themselves before Him; they do not rise up till God sends the waters to the world.
- I have heard one say that God created Heavens and earth once God created the waters from the beginning.
- Listen and I will inform you on everything. Before God ever created the Heavens and the earth, water was in existence, but no one, whosoever, knows anything about the creation of water except God himself, said to me the cherub. For this reason, who takes a false oath by the water will not receive forgiveness, and also for who does an oath by the wheat; the same ordinance applies for both, water and wheat.

SEAL OF LIGHT

- My lord, I wish you would inform me on the origin of the wheat before the earth was cultivated in the beginning. Tell me how it was found by man to live with it?
- Listen and I will inform you on everything. When God created Adam, he placed him in the Garden of joy and gave him this command: *Eat of every tree in the Garden, except of the knowledge-tree of good and bad, if not you will die the same day you eat it*, said to me the cherub.

The evil spirit was *extremely* jealous against Adam when it saw the great glory around him, and the sun

³ Book of Enoch (1Enoch) 82 - The twelve leaders who divide the months of the year.

and the moon, the two great luminaries, coming to revere Adam before they rise over the earth; the evil spirit came and led Adam and his wife into wrongdoing, until they have been chased from The Garden, banished in the land of Eueilat⁴ where Adam lived a life of worries.

Afterwards, Adam was in want of the food they used to eat daily in the Garden, but unable to find, he called with grief and troubled heart to the Lord; the Son of the Gracefulness had compassion on him, he acted as godparent for him and spoke to his good Father, Lord over the angels and over the spirits, saying:

— Lo, the man we created in our likeness is in want, I am sorrowful on his account. My Father, if it be your will, do not let him die before your face.

The Father of the compassion answered this word of wisdom to his beloved Son:

— If the compassion moves you towards the man we created, who throws the command behind him: go give your body for him to eat,⁵ for it is you who agree to act as his advocate.

The Son of the Goodness made answer to his Father:

— Blessed is your word which I will do as you have said!

The beloved Son emerged from the presence of his good Father, he took a part from his right side of his divine body, crushed it down in small pieces and brought it to his holy Father.

— What is this? His Father said to him.

— This is my body according to what you said to me, he answered.

— Yea my Son in truth. Wait till I give you a part of my own invisible substance.

His Father took a part of his own body and made a seed of it. He brought the seal of light⁶ with which he sealed the worlds of light, and sealed the seed in its heart. He said to his beloved Son:

— Take this. Give it to the archangel Michael that he gives it to Adam, and tell him that Adam and his sons will live with that. Let Michael teach him how to sow and harvest it to gather it.

Jesus called Michael and said to him:

— Take this. Give it to Adam that he and his sons live with that.

Michael came to Adam who was on the Jordan; it was the eighth day since he had eaten anything and he was crying to the Lord.⁷ Michael said to him:

— Peace with you. The Lord has heard your prayer, he sends you a seed of grain.

⁴ Elda, *The Book of Jubilees 3*, Charles 1913.

⁵ Food from the Garden.

⁶ *Book of Enoch 69*, in the third parable of Enoch, tells us about the power of that oath, which is powerful and strong, when He placed this oath Akae in the hand of Michael. These are the secrets of this oath: the Heaven was made strong through the oath, and was suspended before the world was created and for ever: through it, the Earth was founded upon the water, and from the secret recesses of the mountains come beautiful waters from the creation of the world unto eternity, (etc.).

⁷ *Book of Adam and Eve 66* (book 1), Malan 1882 - O Adam, go down to the westward of the cave, as far as a land of dark soil, and there you shall find food. And Adam hearkened unto the Word of God, took Eve and went down to a land of dark soil, and found there wheat growing, in the ear and ripe, and figs to eat; and Adam rejoiced over it. Then the Word of God came again to Adam, and said unto him: Take of this wheat and make you bread of it, to nourish your body withal. And God gave Adams heart wisdom, to work out the corn until it became bread. Adam accomplished all that, until he grew very faint and weary. He then returned to the cave; rejoicing at what he had learned of what is done with wheat, until it is made into bread for ones use.

When Adam heard these words of Michael, his being recovered his strength, he came out of the water and threw himself at Michael's feet. Michael gave him the seed sealed with the seal of light, and taught him how to sow it and reap it, ten he went back to Heaven with glory. So the water, the seed of wheat and the Father's throne stand in class one, equal to the Son of God.

I John saw these things and rejoiced at hearing them. Afterwards, the cherub lifted me onto his wing of light to carry me to the 7th Heaven where I saw mighty miracles happen and all the ranks of the angels:

- At the 1st rank, the seraphim have golden censers in their hands and⁸ sing, Hallelujah!
- At the 2nd rank, the angels have golden glasses in their hands which they fill with dew, and empty them on the fields. Now Michael is the governor over them, he assigns to each one his work.

I saw another great and wonderful thing whilst I looked at all the angels divided by ranks: the name of Michael מיכאל is written on all their clothes, and the angels always exclaim his name.

- How come the name of Michael is written on their clothes which they exclaim it aloud? I asked the cherub.
- No angel is allowed to come on the earth unless the name of Michael is written on his clothes, so the evil spirit does not lead them astray, the cherub answered.

WATER WHITE AS SNOW

I saw a great fountain of water as white as snow with an angel who stands above it, his wings soaking in it. The place around the fountain is planted with trees heavily loaded with very great fruits of many different kinds. This fountain was like a sea, and the trees which grow by its side are of one branch. Another great wonder I saw there, the root of a tree release water into the fountain. I said to the cherub:

- My lord, explain to me the purposes of this fountain of white water and this angel who stands above it.
- This is the fountain wherefrom the dew is poured on earth, the cherub said.
- How come this angel is standing above it with his wings soaked in the water?
- This angel you see, his work is this, the cherub said. Every time the trumpet sounds, he rises to shake his wings full of dew, and smites the Heavens which open, one beyond the other, and through them the dew flow drop by drop on earth.
- How do these seven Heavens open one beyond the other, and the daylight breaks through them to come on the world?
- Hearken and I will explain everything to you, the cherub said. There are seven trumpets appointed over the dew, which sound before the dew come on earth. When the 1st trumpet sounds, the 2nd and so on until the 7th, the dew follow the sound of the trumpets from one Heaven to the other. The 7th trumpet belongs to Michael. All the governors withdraw when Michael blows his trumpet; then the dew run promptly until it comes on earth in order to make all the fruits to increase.

⁸ Text add. dressed in the grain-plant.

ANGEL OF FAMINE

As I marvelled, I saw from a distance another angel coming in wrath, and stand by the fountain filled with dew. The whole place trembled and shook when he stood, full of wrath against mankind. As he wept, blood dropped from his eyes into the fountain of dew, and Heavens opened to this side and on that, and everywhere. I saw a great mighty angel coming from Heavens whose name they called Michael, girthed with a golden girdle on the loins, a sponge in his hand wherewith he wiped the tears of the angel of wrath. Afterwards he drove the angel of wrath far away, saying:

— You angel of wrath! Get out from this fountain since you wish to bring a famine on earth!

I said to the cherub:

- My lord, show me the cause of the angel of wrath whom blood drop from his eyes into the fountain?
- See the angel of wrath? He is the angel of famine, he said. If Michael ceases to wipe his tears dropped and allow them in, the fountain of the dew that fall on earth would come to an end. Dissensions and diseases would break out and the land will be smitten with famine. Therefore, there are forty legions of angels, each one of ten thousand (10,000) angels, to sing hymns over the dew till it comes on earth without defect in it.
- My lord, I wish to know the purpose of the cherubim who cry so loudly in Heaven that mankind tremble on earth.
- You see the angels set over these great winds locked inside their storehouses? Said the cherub. As the trumpet sounds, gentle winds come to blow the wings of the angel over the fountain of dew, then the angel moves his wings for the dew to come on earth, and the seed, the trees, the crops, and the fruits grow in the earth.

If the trumpet does not sound, a strong noise comes from Heaven, and then the rainwater come in great quantities to make fruits grow on earth, with rainstorms and thunders that frighten men. It is the rustling noise of the seraph's wings who governs the rainwater to come down, from the firmament, till they fall gently on earth. For all the waters are in the Heaven of the Heavens. And if the seraph would not come down to govern the rainwater, they would come on earth with violence and would devastate the earth as in the waters of Noah, and the lightnings with them. Now I have made clear all mysteries to you.

THE SONGS OF THE HOURS

- My lord, what are the ordinances about the hours of the night and of the day?
- Listen and I will show you, he said. God appointed twelve cherubim to stand outside the veil to sing twelve hymns daily without any toil. When the 1st cherub accomplishes his hymn, the 1st hour of the day came to an end. When the 2nd cherub accomplishes his hymn, the 2nd hour came to an end, and so on until the 12th cherub. The twelve hours of the day end at the 12th cherub.
- About the twelve hours of the night, are the cherubim appointed over them?
- No, but surely the beasts, the birds, the reptiles pray, from the 1st hour of the night to the 12th hour of the night; it is the animals of God which set limits to them.

- How does the sun know when the twelve hours are completed and so depart to the place to set and rise?
- When they are completed, the angels blow the trumpets and so Michael knows that the 12th hymn is completed. Then he says to the angel of sun to give a conclusion to his course, the cherub said.

ONE FAITH, 4 PILLARS & 7 SEALS

- My lord, I wish to know what supports the sky and hold it suspended thus.
- It is suspended by God's ordinance of faith, the cherub said.
- What supports the earth?
- Four pillars *amudey* עמודי sealed of seven seals *chotam* שמתם support the earth, said the cherub.
- My lord, I wish you show me what supports the four pillars?
- He who has created them knows what is appropriated to them...

THE TREE

Afterwards the cherub brought me to the land of Qedem *eastwards* מזרח. He set me on his wing of light and brought me to a place where the sun rise, at the side of the fountain that provides water to the four rivers, Pishon פישון, Tigris *Hidegel* חידקל, Gihon גיהון, and Euphrat פְּרָת. I beheld the Garden of joy filled with every kind of trees, bearing fruits of all kind.

- My lord, I wish you show me the tree that Adam ate and was deprived of glory,⁹ therefore God was wroth with him, I said to the cherub.
- What you ask is related to great mysteries, but I will hide nothing from you, he said. Rise up, set behind me, and I will explain to you everything. I will show you the tree of which Adam ate.

I rose up and followed him, walking through the Garden, I looked around and saw in the centre of the Garden a tree having no fruit on it, with thorns all over, whose trunk went a long way into the ground. I asked the cherub:

- I wish to know the purpose of this tree having no fruit on it, which grew with thorns.
- This is the tree that Adam ate and was denuded *deprived of glory*.
- If there is no fruit on it, how did he find the fruit?
- It was not without fruit. A kind of fruit did grow on it, said the cherub.
- What kind of fruit was it?
- A kind of apple.
- Will it remain without fruit?
- This is the order God put on it since the beginning.

⁹ *Lit.* denuded.

John

THE GARDEN

As I was marvelling at these things, I saw Adam who was coming along at a distance, he was like unto a man who was weeping. He was spreading out his garment and he was carrying away in his garment what were under the tree, and pouring them out on the ground, and burying them. I said to the cherub:

- Why does Adam spread his garment and put in it the dried leaves blown off the tree, and bury them in a hole he dug?
- At that time the tree possessed a sweet smell, but from the moment the evil spirit entered in the Garden to fool Adam and his wife Eve, it ceased to have any smell at all and their leaves fell off, said the cherub. Adam uses to dress himself with the leaves to make them witnesses of what he had done at the judgement.
- My lord, for what reason did the evil spirit enter in the Garden and fool Adam and Eve? For it could not have entered unless it had been allowed by God, for nothing can take place without God's *knowledge*.
- Four and twenty (80) appointed angels are daily in the Garden, plus twelve who go there daily to worship God. At the moment the evil spirit went in the Garden to fool Adam, there was no angel at all in the Garden; an agreement took place to remain outside until Adam had eaten of the tree.
- If they agreed to this with the consent of God, then no sin rests upon Adam...

ADAM

- By no means! If Adam had been patient for a short time, God would have told him to eat of the tree. God removed the righteousness wherewith he was arrayed,¹⁰ and cast him out of the Garden, so what he said is fulfilled that he will send His Son into the world.
- My lord, what kind of righteous cloth Adam had when he received from His hand? I asked.
- The day God created Adam, Adam was twelve cubits high, six cubits wide, his neck was three cubits long;¹¹ he was as an alabaster stone without any defect, he was not cold in winter, nor hot in summer, said the cherub. Once he had eaten of the tree, his body size diminished and became small, the right-

¹⁰ *The Book of the Cave of Treasures* 1-2, st Ephrem, Budge 1927 - God formed Adam with His holy hands, in His own Image and Likeness, and when the angels saw Adam's glorious appearance they were greatly moved by the beauty thereof. For they saw the image of his face burning with glorious splendour like the orb of the sun, and the light of his eyes was like of the sun, and the image of his body was like the sparkling of crystal. When he rose at full length and stood upright in the centre of the Earth, he planted his two feet on that spot whereon was set up the Cross of our Redeemer, for Adam was created in Jerusalem. There he was arrayed in the apparel of sovereignty, and there was the crown of glory set upon his head, there was he made king, and priest, and prophet, there did God make him to sit upon his honourable throne, and there did God give him dominion over all creatures and things. All the wild beasts, all the cattle, and the feathered fowl were gathered together, and they passed before Adam, and he assigned names to them; they bowed their heads before him and everything in nature worshipped him and submitted themselves unto him. The angels and the hosts of Heaven heard the Voice of God saying to him: Adam, behold I have made you king, and priest, and prophet, and lord, and head, and ruler, of everything which has been made and created; they shall be in subjection to thee, and they shall be thine, and I have given unto you power over everything which I have created. And when the angels heard this speech they all bowed the knee and worshipped. *Nota:* Adam first lost the prophethood for not having seen things coming, then the kingship by submitting to Eve and satan, and at last the priesthood, unworthy to present for the midday prayer before God.

¹¹ The numbers are similar to the twelve tribes of Jacob, and six elders for each tribe, as required to be present at the foot of Mount Sinai. | *The Book of Jubilees* 2, Charles 1913 - There (were) two and twenty (22) heads of mankind from Adam to Jacob, and two and twenty (22) kinds of work were made until the 7th day; this is blessed and holy, and the former also is blessed and holy; and this one serves with that one for sanctification and blessing. And to this, it was granted that they should always be the blessed and holy ones of the first testimony and law, even as He had sanctified and blessed the shabat day on the 7th day.

eousness by which he was clothed fled,¹² leaving him denuded to the tips of his fingers, even to his very nails.

EVE

- My lord, I said to the cherub, at the time when God created Adam, did he create Eve with him from Heavens? On one hand, I heard that God created Adam and Eve from the beginning, but again I heard that God brought a deep sleep on Adam and took one rib from his side to make a woman before he filled the place of the rib with flesh. Did the Almighty created two bodies or there only one body?
- Listen, said the cherub, and I will explain to you everything. At the time when God created Adam, he created Eve with him, in one body. For at the time when the Master was working at Adam, the thought concerning Eve was with him; for this reason, from one body came two bodies, which he did not separate from each other immediately. When he brought Adam to slumber, Adam fell asleep and slept heavily: he brought Eve out from him and she became his wife. She was indeed hidden in the rib of the left side from the day God created him.

Consider with attention the sign that is in the sons of Adam.

ADAM'S FINGER NAILS

- My lord, what is the sign which is in the sons of Adam?
- The time the ice was about to come on earth, the first things that get cold in man's body are his finger nails. That is because, at the time when God deprived Adam of the righteousness by which he was clothed, the first things that got cold were his finger nails. So he wept and called to the Lord, saying:
- My Lord, woe to me! At the time when I kept the commands of God, before I did eat of the tree, my whole body was white together with my nails.

For this reason, every time Adam looked at his nails,¹³ he used to weep and call out, as Hezekiah was used to turn to the wall to weep when still with sickness.

¹² *Tales of King Solomon* 3, Seymour 1924 - God called Gabriel and said to him: Go into the Garden, and take the ring of the Khalifs, and bear it to My servant Solomon. Gabriel did as he was bidden and descended to Earth with it. The ring sparkled like a star and gleamed like the lightning, so that its rays blinded the eyes, and there came from it a perfume like musk. It was graven on each of the four sides with texts praising the greatness of God. It had four stones, which were for the four divisions of living things. The first was the sovereignty over the rebellious jinns (spirits); the second over the creatures of the water and frogs, and beasts of prey in deserts and prairies; the third over the kings of all the Earth to the east and to the west; the fourth over trees and plants and dwellers in mountains and water. In the beginning God had given this ring to Adam when he was in the Garden and said to him: This is the ring of power, which I will give you. As long as you forget not My command, it shall be your; but if you forget it, I will take it from you and give it to another, and he shall be your successor. And while Adam walked in the Garden the ring was his, but when he sinned it flew from his finger and hid under one of the pillars of the throne of God, and said to Him: You have created me to obey, but behold, this Adam has broken Your covenant with him, and I am in a strait. And God said: Trouble not yourself, for I will send to you a prudent man who shall walk uprightly in My statutes.

¹³ *Sefer of Jesus* 39 - Adam sprang on his feet and saw in the air a writing that shone like the sun which said: God sole worthy of praise and God messenger. Adam opened his mouth and said: I thank you my Lord God for you has deign to create me. I pray you to tell me what mean the message of these words. Have there been other humen before me? Be welcome O my servant Adam. I tell you that you are the first human whom I have created. He whom you has seen is your son and shall be my messenger who shall come into the world many years hence, for whom I have created all things, who shall give light to the world when he shall come, whose soul was set in a celestial splendour 60,000 years before I made anything, said God. Lord, grant me this writing upon the fingers nails of my hands, said Adam. God gave to the first human that writing upon his thumbs. It said upon the thumb-nail of the right hand: God only one. It said upon the thumb-nail of the left: God's messenger. The first man kissed these words with fatherly affection and rubbed his eyes, saying: Blessed be that day when you shall come to the world!

- Why did he not look at a man instead?

SOLOMON'S WALL

- I will make everything manifest to you, faithful virgin.

In that time the king Solomon constrained all the demons to explain to him their kinds, the remedies to use to heal them all, and the varieties of herbs to use to relieve the sicknesses pains, Solomon wrote them down¹⁴ on the wall, in the House of God. Any man afflicted by a disease, no matter what kind, was used to go to the Temple to look at the wall, until he found there written the remedy which was suitable for his sickness, then he would take that remedy and go in his house, ascribing glory to God.

After the king Solomon's death, Hezekiah plastered the walls of the Temple with lime, so the prescriptions for sicknesses relieve could no longer be found. Now when the king Hezekiah fell sick, being sick to death, he could not find the prescription to heal his sickness, since he himself had plastered the walls of the Temple with lime and the prescriptions written could not be found again. So he went in the house of the Lord and lay down there, he wept at looking the wall, saying:

- My Lord, do not hold as a sin what I have done in plastering the walls with lime whereon were inscribed the prescriptions for healing, for I said, Let men make supplication with hope to God and they will find healing. Never will I find a prescription whereby I may be made whole.

The Lord heard and had compassion on him, he sent the prophet Isaiah who spoke to him, saying:

- Take the fruit of the wild fig-tree, plaster it over your body and you will find relief.

Now therefore John, God will never forsake the man who achieves.

MARK OF GOD

- My lord, does the Lord God determine a man's life from his mother's womb?
- Know that since the birth of man to his life's end, it is determined how many superfluous and how many good works he will do. However, a mark of God is put upon the righteous before he is formed, and it is impossible to cause anything to happen without God. As for sin, being an alien thing to God who created man without sin, the cherub said; man commits himself to sin through his desire, through the evil spirit's desire.
- According to Job: Man is born to suffering; and my mother brought me for suffering... Job 5:7, 3:10
- The compassionate Lord God does not abandon man totally. He shows mercy to him who have been formed at his own Image, work of his own hands. Now John, he will not abandon he who does his will. Whoever does good things will receive back in double and as many times in the House of God.
- My lord, the time God created man, did he give him the title of righteous?
- Before God places him in the womb of his mother, he calls all the angels who come around at the

¹⁴ *Testament of Solomon* 66, Conybeare 1898 - I Solomon, having heard this, glorified God. And though I marvelled at the apology of the demons, I did not credit it until it came true. And I did not believe their words; but when they were realized, then I understood, and at my death I wrote this Testament to the children of Israel, and gave it to them, so that they might know the powers of the demons and their shapes, and the names of their angels, by which these angels are frustrated. And I glorified the Lord God of Israel, and commanded the spirit to be bound with bonds indissoluble.

time he was to create the man, the cherub said. If the mouth of the Father blesses the soul by the word: — This soul will give rest. The angels say: — Amen.

If the Father says: — This soul will commit iniquity. The angels say: — Amen.

The word that comes from the mouth of the Father comes to pass.

CREATED BEING

- Is the substance of man more excellent than the animals?
- Yes. When men die, each of them is brought to the place where he is worthy. But for the animals, their place is the earth, whether they die or live.
- Do they have a soul in them? I said to the cherub.
- Every created being have a soul, and the soul of every created is its blood.
- Will they be punished or rest will be given to them?
- May rest be given to them and let them not suffer! The human being who suffered can enjoy rest.

After I heard all these things I marvelled much at the works that God achieved in relation with man.

STARS

- I wish you may tell me about the stars we see in the firmament, why we cease to see them when the sun has risen, where they go until they perform their service again.
- The stars are of different courses, and some of them remain in Heavens until noon and can not be seen because of the sun light, the cherubim said. Seven stars in the north of the world remain in Heavens always. Seven stars called ~~neerth~~ in Heavens are not permitted to emerge from their storehouse's place except if death comes upon the earth.
- Why one star differs from another? Why a star is used to move from its original place?
- Listen, there are numerous courses of stars which move from their original place by God's decree which abides in them and directs them forever. Now I have made manifest all things to you, beloved one of God. Go down to the world and tell everything you have seen.

Straightway the cherub brought me on the Mount of Olives. I found the apostles gathered and told them the things I had seen. And we greeted each other, giving glory to God, before everyone left to his country to preach in the name of Jesus Christ. Glory to God the good Father, and to Jesus forever. Amen.



APOCALYPSSES APOCRYPHA

John

KNOWLEDGE TO SOW AND REAP

Penitence of Adam (Cap. 2-20) - In Aedibus E. Peeters, translated (Armenian) by Michael E. Stone 1981

It came to pass, when Adam went forth from the Garden with his wife, outside, to the east of the Garden, they made themselves a hut to live in and went inside. Their tears fell ceaselessly and they spent their days in unison of mind, weeping and saddened, and they said to one another: -We are far from life. Then, after seven days, they grew hungry and looked for food. Eve said to Adam: -My lord, I am hungry. Arise, seek food so that we may live and know that God is going to come and bring us to the Garden, to our place. They arose and went about upon the earth, and they did not find food like the food by which they had been nourished in [the Garden]. Eve said to Adam: -I am dying of this hunger. It would be better if I were dead, my lord; perhaps (then) they would bring [you] into the Garden, for because of me God is angry. Adam said: -Great wrath has come upon us, I know not whether because of you or because of me. Eve said to him: -Kill me if you wish, so that the wrath and anger may abate from before you, for this has come about because of me, and they will bring you into the Garden. Adam said to her: -Eve, do not (even) mention this matter; lest God bring upon us even greater evils and we become contemptible. Indeed, how can I do you any evil, for you are my body? Eve said: -Arise, so that we may seek vegetable food. (But they did not find food) God established this vegetable food as food for the beasts that they might eat on the earth, but our food is that which the angels eat. Arise, let us repent for forty days; perhaps God will pity us and give [us] food which is better than that of the beasts so that we should not become like them. Adam said to Eve: -In what fashion will you repent? How many days can you endure toils? Perhaps you will begin and be unable to repent, and God will not hearken, so that we will not be able to keep that which we originally received. Eve said: -Set me the number of days which I might think to repent; perhaps the days will be too long, for I brought this penitence upon you. Adam said: -You cannot endure the same number of days as I, but do what I tell you and abide by instruction. I shall be for forty days, six days more than you, because you were created on the sixth day (of those upon which) he accepted his works. Now therefore, arise, go to the Tigris river and take a stone and place it under your feet and stand in the water up to your neck, in your clothes. Let no word of supplication to God escape your mouth, for we are unworthy and our lips are impure and unclean, because of the transgressions which we committed in the Garden when we ate of the tree. Stand silent there in the middle of the water until [you] have done penitence for thirty-four days, and I will be in the Jordan river, until we learn that, behold, God has hearkened to us and will give us our food. Then

Eve went to the Tigris and did as Adam had instructed her, and Adam [went] to the Jordan. And the hair of his head was uncovered. He prayed and said: -I say to you, waters of Jordan, be fellow sufferers for me and assemble all the moving things which are in you, and let them surround me and bewail me, not for their own sakes, but for mine, because God did not withhold their food from them which God appointed from the beginning, but I have been withheld from my food and from life. When Adam said that, all moving things which were in the Jordan gathered to him and stood around him like a wall. The waters of the Jordan stopped at that time and became stationary from their flow. Adam cried to God and he set apart six hundred orders of them to call to God in prayers all the days. When eighteen days of their weeping were completed, then satan took on the form of a cherub with splendid attire, and went to the Tigris river to deceive Eve. Her tears were falling on her attire, down to the ground. Satan said to Eve: -Come forth from the water and rest, for God has hearkened to your penitence, to you and Adam your husband. Because we beseeched God, God sent to lead you forth from there and to give you your food, on account of which you repented. Since just now I went to Adam, and he sent me to you and said, Go son, summon my wife. Now come, let us go to Adam and I will lead you to the place where your food is. When Eve came forth from the water, her flesh was like withered grass, for her flesh had been changed from the water, but the form of her glory remained brilliant. But she fell down and remained upon the ground in great distress for two days, for she was quite unable to move from the spot. Then she arose and satan also led her to where Adam was. When Adam saw satan and Eve who was following it, he wept loudly and called out with a great voice and said to Eve: -Where is my command of repentance, which I gave you? How did you go astray, to follow it by whom we were alienated from our dwelling? When Eve heard this and knew that who deceived her was satan, she fell down before Adam. From that time Adam's distress increased twofold when he saw the sufferings of his wife, for she was overcome and fell like one dead. He was sad and called out great lamentation and said to satan: Why have you engaged in such a great conflict with us? What are our sins against you, that you have brought us out of our place? Did we take your glory from you? Did we reject you from being our possession, that you fight against us unnecessarily? Satan also wept loudly and said to Adam: -All my arrogance and sorrow came to pass because of you; because of you I went forth from my dwelling, because of you I was alienated from the throne of the cherubs who have spread out a shelter used to enclose me, because of you my feet have trodden the earth. Adam replied and said:

-What are we against you that you did all this to us? Satan replied and said: -You did nothing to me, but I came to this measure because of you, on the day on which you were created, for I went forth on that day. When God breathed his Spirit into you, you received the likeness of his image. Then Michael came and made you bow down before God. God said to Michael: -Behold I have made Adam in the likeness of my image. Then Michael summoned all the angels, and God said to them: -Come, bow down to whom I made. Michael bowed first. He called me and said: -You too, bow down to Adam. I said: -Go away Michael! I shall not bow to him who is posterior to me, for I am former. Why is it proper to bow down to him? The other angels who were with me heard this too, and my words seemed pleasing to them, and they did not prostrate themselves to you, Adam. Then God became angry with me and commanded to expel us from our dwelling, and to cast me and my angels who were in agreement with me, to the earth; and you were at the same time in the Garden. When I realized that because of you I had gone forth from the dwelling of light and was in sorrows and pains, then I prepared a trap for you, so that I alienate you from your happiness just as I, too, had been alienated because of you. When Adam heard this, he said to the Lord: -Lord, my soul is in your hand. Make this enemy of mine distant from me, who desires to lead me astray, I who am searching for the light that I have lost. At that time satan passed away from him. Adam stood from then on in the waters of repentance, and Eve remained fallen upon the ground for three days, like one dead. Then, after three days, she arose from the earth, and she said to Adam: -You are innocent of the first sin and of this second one. Only me alone satan did overcome as a result of God's word and yours. Again Eve said to Adam: -Behold, I shall go to the west and I shall be there and my food (will be) grass until I die; for henceforth I am unworthy of the foods of life. Eve went to the west and she mourned and was sad; then she made a hut for herself in the west, and her womb was advanced in her pregnancy old [conceived in Eden at the moment they transgressed God's order] and she had Cain, the lawless one. When the times of her parturition came, she began to cry out in a loud voice and said: -Where is Adam, that he might see this pain of mine? Who, indeed, will relate my afflictions to Adam? Is there a wind under the Heavens that will go and tell Adam, Come and help Eve? And she said: -I implore you, all luminaries, when you come to the east, tell my lord Adam about my pains. Then Adam, in the river Jordan, heard Eve's cry and her weeping. When God hearkened to the sound of Adam's penitence, he taught him sowing and reaping and that which was to come upon him and his seed.



PAUL¹

Purge of Judas

The sailor fastened, looking at Andrew, and the crowd gathered around him. Paul had said to him to bring his cloak to the shore and to give it to Andrew. The sailor's mother, seeing her son coming to the shore, went to greet him. The cloak touched her eyes and she was able to see. They gave glory to God הָאָדָם² for what had happened. Andrew approached the sailor and said to him:

- Where is the man who was on board with you?
- He jumped overboard in the water, the sailor replied, saying that he was going to inspect the Abyss, these places where the lord had gone, in order to see how he had formed them. This is what he told me to tell you: I beg you not to forget me and leave me, lest the subterranean creatures of the Abyss seize me. [...]²

Andrew had gone to the Sea and said to the sailor:

- Tell me where Paul threw himself into the water.

They boarded the boat and went until the sailor said:

- This is here!

Andrew filled a cup with sweet water and prayed over it:

- My lord Jesus, who separated light from darkness, who separated the earth until dry land appeared: in your name I pour this cup of sweet water so that the salt water sea recedes, that the dry emerges and the earth opens to the Abyss for Paul to come out.

After he said this, he poured the cup of sweet water in the Sea and said:

- Bitter salt water, recede before the sweet.

At his words, the dry land appeared, the Abyss separated. Paul leapt out the water with a fragment of wood in his hand. He went to Andrew and greeted him.

¹ *Actes d'André et de Paul*, translated (coptic) by Alcock, Jacques 1970.

² This act is found in *The Gospels of Thomas with the Acts of the Apostles in Asia* (p. 81).

- Where have you come from, where have you been? Andrew said.
- Forgive me brother, I went to inspect the places of Abyss where the lord went: I saw what kind of places they were, Paul said.
- You have been exceedingly bold, said Andrew. We, senior apostles, who walked with the lord until he was resurrected, instructing us in everything, making us master all the powers; indeed none of us dared to do what you have done.
- I have managed to do it, forgive me brother, said Paul. Listen what happened when I went to the Abyss.

I saw a dwelling place of all souls and I beheld the apostle Judas walking with our lord in a punishment of great severity, and I said to him:

- What are you doing in this punishment? Why the lord did not bring you with the souls he brought out?
- Woe is me! Double woe for what I did to my lord! He said. I sinned against him, I betrayed him for perishable money of the jews, while I knew he was my lord, and the lord of the entire earth. I went back to give my money to the high cohen, and I asked him for forgiveness:
- Will you abandon me for a single thing I did when I sold you?
 Will you look at me as I go to my destruction? Do not abandon me... but remember, my lord.
 I heard you talking to the apostle Cephas when he asked you: If my brother sins against me, how often should I forgive him, up to 7 times? You told him: Not just 7 times, but up to 700.
 I sinned against you once... Will you look at me as I go to my destruction? Do not my lord...
 Who is the man who will watch his son going down to the depth and not help him? Even I who dared to betray you, will you look at me as I go down to my destruction? Do not my lord...

Then he sent me to the desert and said to me:

- Do not fear anyone but God. If you see the evil come, do not fear it or other, except God!

So I went to the desert to fast, so that God may forgive me. But when the leader of destruction came and lifted its head above me, its mouth open, ready to swallow me, I got scared and I worshipped it, saying:

- You are my lord.

When it withdrew from me, I wept as if there is no forgiveness for me. When I said: If the lord were here, I would call upon him; I was taken straightway to the Court to be judged. When I said: I will hang myself; I reached Sheol before the lord came to take the souls, at a certain place, and emptied Sheol there, except my soul.

The gatekeepers of Sheol wept to the devil:

- What else do you do but boasting that you are king and no one else? Now we know that you are not king, for there is someone else whose lordship is over you and he took them all away from you.
- My powers! Do you think there is someone stronger than us!? The devil said to its powers. He has come here but he was not able to take the other soul.³

³ Iscariot.

Then Jesus called Michael who accompanied him to Sheol and said:

— Take out the soul of Judas so that the devil can not reproach me.

Michael came to bring me out, and Michael shouted:

— Shame on you feeble foe!

— Now return the soul to Sheol, the lord said to Michael.

— Will you leave me in this punishment? Judas said weeping. I knew you were coming into Sheol to take these souls, and you would take mine as well. That is why I removed my soul from my body...

— What have you done, prostrating yourself to worship evil? Jesus said.

— It came on me like a snake, its mouth opened, ready to devour me; I got scared and I worshipped it, Judas said.

— Wretch! When it came to you, if you had called the Lord for help you would have been saved... As you have done otherwise, a hateful thing to God besides committed suicide, for this you will remain in Sheol until the day of judgement when the Lord will judge you, since I am for that day, Jesus said.

When I heard this from Judas, I Paul was extremely grieved about the troubles he was into.

Listen what I tell you. In Sheol I saw deserted streets where there was no one, all the doors were destroyed by the lord who broke them in pieces. Do you see this piece of wood in my hand, brother Andrew? It is part of the gate of Sheol which the lord has destroyed I brought with me.

I also saw other hug places by the side of Sheol.⁴ I asked what they were, and I was told these places are for the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets.

And I heard a multitude crying aloud as if they wept from other places; I did not see them and I asked what they were. I was told these were the places that the lord did not visit when he descended in Sheol, that are the places of weeping, and gnashing of teeth, inhabited by murderers, magicians, and infanticides.

When he had said this, the boat decked on the shore [...].⁵



⁴ *Legends of the Jews*, vol. 1 (p.3), Ginzberg 1913 - In the beginning, two thousand years before Heaven and Earth, seven things were created: the Torah written with black fire on white fire, lying in the lap of God; the divine Throne erected in the Heaven which later was over the heads of the hayyot (*living creatures* נַפְרָאִים) Ezekiel 1:13; Paradise (*Gad Eden*) on the right side of God, Hell (*Sheol*) on the left side; the Celestial Sanctuary directly in front of God, having a jewel on its altar graven with the name of the Messiah, and a Voice that cries aloud: Return children of men. When God resolved upon the creation of the world, he took counsel with the Torah, her advice was this: O Lord, a king without an army, without courtiers and attendants, hardly deserves the name of king, for none is nigh to express the homage due to him. The answer pleased God exceedingly. Thus did he teach all Earthly kings, by his divine example, to undertake naught without first consulting advisers. The advice of the Torah was given with some reservations; she was sceptical about the value of an Earthly world on account of the sinfulness of men, who would be sure to disregard her precepts. But God dispelled her doubts. He told her that repentance had been created long before, and sinners would have the opportunity of mending their ways. Besides, the Temple service would be invested with atoning power, and Paradise and Hell were intended to do duty as reward and punishment. Finally, the Messiah was appointed to bring salvation which would put an end to all sinfulness.

⁵ God used this piece of door to destroy a gate closed to the apostles. See p. 84, *Gospels of Thomas with the Acts of the Apostles in Asia*



THOMAS,

From Sheol to Heaven

There shall be divisions in the world between king and king, and in all the earth shall be great famine, great pestilences, and many distresses, and the sons of men shall be led captive among all nations and shall fall by the edge of the sword: there shall be great commotion in the world. Hear, you Thomas, for I am the Son of God **הָאֵל**¹ the Father of all spirits. Hear from me the signs which will come to pass at the end of this world: the end of the world shall be fulfilled before my elect ones depart out of the world. I will tell you what will come to pass to men openly, what princes of the angels do not know, until now hidden from them.

Then after, when the hour of the end drew nigh, there shall be great signs in Heaven for seven days,² and the powers of the Heaven shall be moved.

At the beginning, on the **1st** day, at the **3rd** hour of the day, there shall be a great mighty voice in the firmament of Heaven. A bloody cloud coming down from north, great thunderings and mighty lightnings shall follow it: it shall cover the whole Heaven, and there shall be a rain of blood upon all the earth. These are the signs of the **1st** day.

On the **2nd** day, there shall be a great voice in the firmament of Heaven. The earth shall be moved away from its place, the gates of Heaven shall be opened toward the east in the firmament of Heaven, the smoke of a great fire shall go through the gates of Heaven and shall cover all the Heaven until evening. In that day there shall be fears and great terrors in the world. These are the signs of the **2nd** day.

But on the **3rd** day, at the **3rd** hour shall be a great voice in Heaven. The abysses of the earth shall roar from the four corners of the world, the summits of the firmament of Heaven shall be opened, all the air shall be filled with pillars of smoke. There shall be a very bad stink of brimstone until the **10th** hour. Men shall say: *The time draw near that we perish.* These are the signs of the **3rd** day.

On the **4th** day, at the **1st** hour, the Abyss shall melt and roar from east's land. All the earth shall be shaken by the might of an earthquake; in that day the ornaments of the idolaters shall fall with all the buildings of the earth before the might of the earthquake. These are the signs of the **4th** day

¹ *Apocalypse of Thomas*, transl. (german) James 1924

² *Saltair na Rann*, line 8017 - It is right for every christian to weep at every hour, to fear the sad sunday a week before doomsday.

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On the 5th day, at the 6th hour, there shall be a sudden great thunder in Heaven. The powers of lightning and the wheel of the sun shall be caught; there shall be great darkness in the world until evening, the air shall be gloomy without sun or moon, the stars shall cease their ministry. In that day all nations will behold as in a mirror and despise the life of this world. These are the signs of the 5th day

On the 6th day at the 4th hour, there shall be a great voice in Heaven. The firmament of Heaven shall cleave from east to west, the angels of Heaven shall look upon the earth by the openings of the Heaven, all on earth shall behold the host of the angels looking from Heaven: all men shall flee to the monuments to hide themselves from the face of the righteous angels, saying: The earth will open and swallow us. Such things to come have never happened since the world was created.

They shall behold me coming from above in the light of my Father, with the power and honoured of the holy angels; at my coming the fence of fire that surrounds the Garden shall go away, this shall be the perpetual fire which will consume the earth and all the world elements. The spirits and souls of all men will go out from the Garden to come upon the earth: each one shall go to his body where is laid, and each one shall say: Here lie my body.

When the great voice of those spirits shall be heard, there shall be a great earthquake over the whole world; by its might the mountains shall cleave from above to the rocks beneath: every spirit shall return to his own vessel and the bodies of the saints fallen asleep shall arise.

❧ At the voice of the angel:

- In the 1st resurrection, before anybody, the apostles of Christ with their murmuring without pain for their trial.
- In the 2nd resurrection, the prophets of the world will arise.
- In the 3rd resurrection, the confessors, at the clamour: *Do not conceal them.*
- In the 4th resurrection, the martyrs of the earth will arise.
- In the 5th resurrection, the entirely hosts of the saints.
- In the 6th resurrection, the virgins, the penitents, the baptised kept in the earth will arise.
- In the 7th resurrection, from fire, heavy floods, from the Sea, land and earth, everybody will arise to life.

With trembling effort for their meeting, they gather in a vast band; on each side, the people of holy hosts of Heaven, the people of earth and of Sheol. Their feasting is constant, by the numbers of their rewards; their treasures, their stations, their arraying, before the bright face of the King of the seven Heavens. ☙³

Their bodies shall be changed into the likeness and image honoured of the holy angels, by the power of the image of my holy Father; they will be clothed with the raiment eternal of life, of cloud of light which has never been seen in this world, which come from the highest kingdom of Heaven, from the power of my Father. This cloud will surround with Splendour all the spirits who believed in me. When they shall be clothed, they will be carried by the holy angels' hands like as I said to you aforetime. They will be lifted up in the air on a cloud of light to come with me to rejoice in Heaven, and they will continue in the light of my honoured Father; there shall be to them great gladness with my Father and before the holy angels. These are the signs of the 6th day.

On the 7th day, at the 8th hour, there shall be voices in the four corners of Heaven. All the air will be shaken, filled with holy angels who will make war among them all day long: in that day, my elect will be sought by the holy angels before the destruction of the world. All men will see the hour of their destruction draw near. These are the

³ *Saltair na Rann*, line 8233.

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Thomas

signs of the 7th day.

On the 8th day, at the 6th hour, passed the 7th day, there shall be a sweet tender voice from Heaven, at the east; this angel who has power over the holy angels shall be revealed then, sitting upon the clouds chariots of my holy Father, running with joy through the air beneath Heaven, with him all the angels, to deliver the elect who believed in me. They shall rejoice that the destruction of this world has come.

The words of the saviour to Thomas ended here concerning the end of this world.



GATES OF SHEOL¹

The damned shall suffer eternally punishment



Sheol² שָׁׁאֹל is one O my disciples, and the damned shall suffer eternally punishment in it. Yet it has 7 regions, one deeper than the other. He who go to the deepest shall suffer greater punishment. Yet my words are true concerning the sword of the messenger Michael. He who commits but 1 sin merits 1 sheol, he who commits 2 sins merits 2 sheols.

In 1 sheol the reprobates shall feel punishment as though they were in 10, or in a 100, or in a 1000. God all-powerful, by reason of his justice, and through his power, shall cause satan to suffer as though he were in 1000 sheols. And for the rest, each one according to his wickedness.

Sheol is one and is contrary to Eden, as winter is contrary to summer, and cold to heat. He who would describe the misery of Sheol must necessarily have seen God's delights of Eden.

O place accursed by the justice of God for the malediction of faithless and reprobates, of which God's friend Job^{10.22} said: There is no order there but everlasting fear. The prophet Isaiah^{66.24} said against the reprobates: Their flame shall not be quenched, nor their worms die. David our father said weeping: lightning, bolts, brimstone, great tempest, shall rain upon them.^{Psalms 11.6}

O miserable sinners, how detestable shall seem to them delicate meats, costly raiment, soft couches, and concord of sweet song: how sick shall make them intense hunger, burning flames, scorching ashes, cruel torments, with bitter weeping. Truly it were better never to have been formed than to suffer such cruel torments! Say Jesus, uttering a lamentable groan. Imagine a man suffering torments in every part of his body, and who has no one to show him compassion but mocked of all.

I tell you in truth, if God should place in one balance all the pains which all men have suffered in this

¹ *The Sefer of Jesus or Gospel of Barnabi* 59-60, 135-137

² *Sheol*: The place where those that had died were believed to be congregated. Jacob, refusing to be comforted at the supposed death of Joseph, exclaims: I shall go down to my son a mourner unto Sheol (Gen. XXXVII. 36, Hebr.; comp. ib. XLII. 38; XLIV. 29, 31). Sheol is underneath the earth (Isa. VII. 11, LVII. 9; Ezek. XXXI. 14; Ps. LXXXVI. 13; Eccl. [Sirach] LI. 6; comp. Enoch, XVII. 6, toward the setting of the sun); hence it is designated as (Deut. XXXII. 22; Ps. LXXXVI. 13) or (Ps. LXXXVIII. 7; Lam. III. 55; Ezek. XXVI. 20, XXXII. 24). It is very deep (Prov. IX. 18; Isa. LVII. 9); and it marks the point at the greatest possible distance from heaven (Job XI. 8; Amos IX. 2; Ps. CXXXIX. 8). The dead descend or are made to go down into it; the revived ascend or are brought and lifted up from it (I Sam. II. 6; Job VII. 9; Ps. XXX. 4; Isa. XIV. 11, 15). Sometimes the living are hurled into Sheol before they would naturally have been claimed by it (Prov. I. 12; Num. XVI. 33; Ps. LV. 16, LXIII. 10), in which cases the earth is described as opening her mouth (Num. XVI. 30). Sheol is spoken of as a land (Job X. 21, 22); but ordinarily it is a place with gates (ib. XVII. 16, XXXVIII. 17; Isa. XXXVIII. 10; Ps. IX. 14), and seems to have been viewed as divided into compartments (Prov. VII. 27), with farthest corners (Isa. XIV. 15; Ezek. XXXII. 23, Hebr.; R. V. uttermost parts of the pit), one beneath the other (see *Jew. Encyc.* v. 217, s. v. *Eschatology*). Here the dead meet (Ezek. XXXII.; Isa. XIV.; Job XXX. 23) without distinction of rank or condition –the rich and the poor, the pious and the wicked, the old and the young, the master and the slave— if the description in Job III. refers, as most likely it does, to Sheol. The dead continue after a fashion their earthly life. Jacob would mourn there (Gen. XXXVII. 35, XLII. 38); David abides there in peace (I Kings II. 6); the warriors have their weapons with them (Ezek. XXXII. 27), yet they are mere shadows (rephaim; Isa. XIV. 9, XXVI. 14; Ps. LXXXVIII. 5, A. V. a man that hath no strength). The dead merely exist without knowledge or feeling (Job XIV. 13; Eccl. IX. 5). Silence reigns supreme; and oblivion is the lot of them that enter therein (Ps. LXXXVIII. 13, XCIV. 17; Eccl. IX. 10). Hence it is known also as Dumah, the abode of silence (Ps. vi. 6, XXX. 10, XCIV. 17, CXV. 17); and there God is not praised (ib. CXV. 17; Isa. XXXVIII. 15). Still, on certain extraordinary occasions the dwellers in Sheol are credited with the gift of making known their feelings of rejoicing at the downfall of the enemy (Isa. XIV. 9, 10). Sleep is their usual lot (Jer. LI. 39; Isa. XXVI. 14; Job XIV. 12). Sheol is a horrible, dreary, dark, disorderly land (Job X. 21, 22); yet it is the appointed house for all the living (ib. XXX. 23). Return from Sheol is not expected (II Sam. XII. 23; Job VII. 9, 10; X. 21; XIV. 7 et seq.; XVI. 22; Eccl. [Sirach] XXXVIII. 21); it is described as man's eternal house (Eccl. XII. 5). It is dust (Ps. XXX. 10; hence in the Shemoneh Esreh, in benediction no. II. the dead are described as sleepers in the dust). *Source:* Sheol *שָׁׁאֹל* by Emil G. Hirsch. jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/13563-sheol

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world and shall suffer till the Day of Judgment, and on the other one, single hour of the pain of sheol; without doubt the reprobates would choose the worldly tribulations, for the worldly come from man's hand, the others from devils' hand absolutely without compassion. What cruel fire they shall give to miserable sinners... What bitter cold which yet shall not temper their flames... What gnashing of teeth and sobbing and weeping...

The Jordan has less water than the tears which shall flow from their eyes every moment. There their tongues shall curse all things created – their father and mother, and their Creator, blessed for ever!

THE 7 CENTRES OF SHEOL

Know you that Sheol is one, yet has 7 centres, one below another. Even as sin is of 7 kinds, 7 gates of Sheol has satan generated it, so there are 7 punishments therein.

7th CENTRE

The arrogant, the loftiest in heart, shall be plunged into the lowest centre, passing through all the centres above it, suffering in them all the pains that are therein. As here he seek to be higher than God, and wishing to do after his own manner, contrary to what God order, not wishing to recognize anyone above him: even so, there he shall be put under the feet of satan and his devils who shall trample him down as grapes are trampled when wine is made, and shall be ever derided and scorned of devils.

6th CENTRE

The envious who irritates at the good of his neighbor here, and rejoice at his misfortune, shall go down to the 6th centre to be chafed there by the fangs of a great number of infernal serpents. It shall seem to him that all things in Sheol rejoice at his torment, and lament that he be not gone down to the 7th centre: even if the damned are incapable of any joy, yet the justice of God shall cause to the wretched envious man to seem so, as one seem in a dream to be spurned by someone and feel torment thereby. So the object shall be set before the wretched envious man. Where there is no gladness at all, it shall seem to him that everybody rejoice at his misfortune and lament that he has no worse.

5th CENTRE

The covetous shall go down to the 5th centre where he shall suffer extreme poverty as the rich feaster³ suffered. For greater torment, the demons shall offer him what he desire and when he shall have it in his hands, with violence other devils shall snatch it from his hands with these words: Remember that you would not give for love of God, so now God will not that you receive. Oh unhappy man when he shall find himself in that condition, seeing the penury of the present and remembering his past abundance, how he could have acquired eternal Delights with the goods he had.

4th CENTRE

The immoral who have transformed the way given them by God, shall go to the 4th centre and be as corn cooked in the burning dung of the devil, where they shall be embraced by horrible infernal serpents.

³ Luke 16.27

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They that shall have sinned with harlots in all impurity, their act shall be transformed into union with infernal furies, which demons are like women whose hair is of serpents, eyes are of flaming sulphur, mouth is poisonous, tongue is gull, whose body is all girt with barbed hooks, like those wherewith they catch silly fish, claws are those of gryphons, nails are razors, the nature of whose generative organs is fire. Now with these, all the immoral shall enjoy the infernal coals which shall be their bed.

3rd CENTRE

The lazy who will not work now shall go down to the 3rd centre where there are built cities and immense palaces which soon as they are finished must necessarily be pulled down straightway if a single stone is not placed aright. These enormous stones are laid upon the lazy shoulders who has not his hands free to cool his body and to ease the burden as he walks, seeing that laziness has taken away the power of his arms and his legs are restrained with infernal serpents. What is worse, behind him are demons that push him and make him fall to ground under the weight many times, nor do any help him to lift it up, nay. It being too much to lift, a double volume is laid upon him.

2nd CENTRE

The gluttonous shall go down to the 2nd centre where there is lack of food to such a degree that there shall be nothing to eat but live scorpions and live serpents which give such torment that it would be better never to have been born than to eat such food. In appearance indeed, delicate meats are offered to them by demons because they can not put out a hand at the time when the meat appear to them. What is worse, those very scorpions which he eat, not being able to come forth speedily, devour his belly, rip the secret parts of the gluttonous. And dirty as they are, when they are come forth foul and unclean, they are eaten over again.

1st CENTRE

The wrathful go down to the 1st centre where he is insulted by all the devils and by as many of the damned as going down lower than he: they spurn him and smite him, making him lie down upon the road where they pass, planting their feet upon his throat. Yet he is not able to defend himself since he has his hands and feet bound. What is worse, he is not able to expel his wrath by insulting others seeing that his tongue is fastened by a hook like which he who sell flesh meat use.

ELEMENTS UNITED IN JUSTICE

In this accursed place, there shall be a general punishment common to all the centres, like the mixture of various grains to make a loaf: fire, ice, thunderstorms, lightning, sulphur, heat, cold, wind, frenzy, terror, shall all be united by God justice in such wise that the cold shall not temper the heat nor the fire the ice, but each shall give torment to the wretched sinner.

For evermore the unfaithful shall abide in this accursed spot. Their torment can not have an end seeing they were not willing to put an end to their sin for love of God. But the faithful shall have comfort since their torment shall have an end.

The disciples were affrighted at hearing this and said:

- The faithful must go into Sheol?!
- Everyone, who he may be, must go into Sheol, Jesus answered.

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HOLY ONES, PROPHETS & FAITHFUL IN SHEOL

Truly the holy ones and prophets of God shall go there to behold without suffering any punishment, and the faithful with suffering fear only. Sheol shall tremble at God's messenger presence when he shall come there to behold God justice since he has human flesh.

All those that have human flesh shall be under punishment. So long as God's messenger shall abide to behold Sheol, so long they shall abide without punishment. He shall abide there as long as it take to open and shut the eyes. God shall do this so that every creature may know that he has received benefit from God's messenger. When he shall go there all the devils shall scream and seek to hide themselves beneath the burning embers, saying one to another:

— Fly fly, for here come worthy of praise our enemy!

Hearing that, satan shall smite himself upon the face with both his hands and shall say screaming:

— In my despite you are more noble than I and this is unjustly done...

72 GRADES OF PURGATORY

As for the faithful who are in the 72 grades, those of the 2 last grades who shall have had the faith without good works — the one being sad at good works, and the other delighting in evil. They shall abide in Sheol 70,000 years. After those years the messenger Gabriel shall come into Sheol and shall hear them say:

— O worthy of praise, where are your promise made to us saying that those who have your faith shall not abide in Sheol for evermore?

Then God's messenger shall return to Eden, and having approached God's messenger with reverence shall narrate to him what he has heard. His messenger shall speak to God, saying:

— My Lord God, remember the promise made to me your servant, concerning them that have received my faith, that they shall not abide for evermore in Sheol.

— Ask what you will my friend, I will give you all that you ask, God shall answer.

— O Lord, there are of the faithful who have been in Sheol 70,000 years. Where is your mercy O Lord? I pray you Lord to free them from those bitter punishments, God's messenger shall say.

God shall command the 4 favourite messengers of God to go to Sheol and take out everyone that has his messenger's faith and lead him into Eden. This they shall do, such shall be the advantage of the faith of God messenger.

Those who shall have belief in him, even if they have not done any good works, but seeing they died in this faith, shall go into Eden after the punishment of which I have spoken.



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